FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Tripoli Military Situation — "Violent" clashes took place in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, on the morning of 17 November following the capture of Al-Baddawi camp by forces opposed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat the previous day, Beirut radio reported. The radio said 'Arafat announced a cease-fire on all fronts, but AFP quoted him as saying his forces will "fight to the end." Fatah dissident spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi said in Damascus that the opposition forces will cease fighting and will not enter Tripoli if 'Arafat remains "quiet," Radio Monte Carlo reported. An As-Sa'iqah official cited by Voice of Palestinian Revolution radio in Turbul accused 'Arafat's forces of "trying to move the battle to the city of Tripoli by deliberately shelling the revolution's positions." The opposition does not want to endanger the security and safety of the city and holds the "'Arafat gangs" fully responsible for their provocations, he stated.

'Arafat's opponents captured over 30 loyalist fighters when they overran Al-Baddawi but hundreds of 'Arafat's men managed to escape to Tripoli, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon and Voice of Lebanon radio. An officer loyal to 'Arafat confirmed the fall of Al-Baddawi but said loyalist fighters remain on the southern outskirts of the camp, AFP noted. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio did not announce the fall of the camp but spoke of "grinding" battles between attackers and defenders. Turbul Voice of Palestinian Revolution and SANA claimed that Palestinian civilians in Al-Baddawi welcomed the arrival of the anti-'Arafat forces.

Related Developments — The Northern Coordination Committee, in a statement broadcast by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, demanded a total cease-fire in and around Tripoli and stressed the need for a dialogue between the warring sides. The Syrian Arab Deterrent Force should take action to ensure that the city is not shelled, the statement added. Meanwhile, in a message carried by SPA, Saudi King Fahd appealed for an end to the fratricide in northernLebanon, which he described as "heartbreaking" and unjustifiable. Fahd and the amirs of Kuwait and Qatar agreed to continue GCC mediation efforts, Kuwait radio reported. In another development, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Paris to discuss the situation with French officials, according to TAP.

Calls for 'Arafat's Departure — The dissidents' radio station at Turbul reported that calls for 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli were made by the commander of As-Sa'iqah and by Lebanese "national and progressive" representatives meeting at Halba, northeast of Tripoli.

A commentary carried by the pro-'Arafat San'a' Voice of Palestine radio denied Western descriptions of Tripoli as 'Arafat's last stronghold, asserting that the PLO has strongholds all over the world.

Lebanon

Political Developments — Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam departed for Damascus 16 November after meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, according to Beirut and Damascus radios. Speaking at a press conference, reported by Beirut radio and SANA, Khaddam said that the two leaders agreed on "practical measures" to end cease-fire violations and a "high-level meeting" of "responsible military men of the parties concerned" to discuss the cease-fire. Radio Free Lebanon, citing "informed sources," announced that a high-level Lebanese military delegation would go to Damascus on 17 November.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, in an interview with the magazine *MONDAY MORNING* , declared that a government of national unity is "imperative and inevitable," adding that the existing government's status, based on the fact that its resignation has been placed at the president's disposal, cannot continue indefinitely.

According to the Voice of Lebanon radio, a three-man Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) delegation visited Israel to meet with Druze leaders, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and IDF intelligence officials. The report said the Israelis asked that the PSP provide a report of Syrian weapons and personnel deployment in the Al-Biqa' and the mountain regions and that it "act to bring about the withdrawal of Palestinian elements and their bases," in return for which the Israelis agreed to military training for PSP personnel. On the other hand, Dr 'Atif Sallum, who is "considered to be" the PSP foreign minister and was reported to be a member of the delegation to Israel, told Israeli correspondents that "a rapprochement has occurred" between the PSP and Syria, according to the Tel Aviv newspaper *DAVAR*.

Security officials at Beirut airport refused to allow 12 Soviet experts, who were supposed to repair the damaged Soviet Embassy building in Beirut, to enter the country on the grounds that their secret mission was to observe the Multinational Forces' movements, particularly the U.S. Marines, the Kuwaiti paper *AS-SIYASAH said.*

Military Developments — Beirut International Airport was shelled on 16 November, according to Beirut radio. Beirut and its suburbs and villages to the north and south were shelled, with some shells falling near the Foreign Ministry, the Presidential Palace, and the U.S. ambassador's residence, the radio reported. Radio Free Lebanon maintained that it had monitored a "contact" between the Syrian deputy prime minister's office and Syrian military intelligence that contained an "official Syrian demand" for "intensive firing at Lebanese official centers" in retaliation for the "Lebanese official stand."

During the 16 November Israeli air raids on camps in the Al-Biqa',35 were killed and 80 wounded, while the Ash-Sha'rah camp was destroyed, Beirut radio reported. Jerusalem radio asserted that the raids "made it plain" to the "Iranian-oriented terrorists" that the IDF knows who attacked the Israeli headquarters in Tyre and the site from which the attack was launched. Damascus radio reported U.S. and Israeli overflights of Beirut and the nearby mountain areas, but Syrian media have not been observed to report the Israeli raids.

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Spokesman Says Dissidents Won't Enter Tripoli

JN162041 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Mahmud al-Labadi, spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat's opponents, made a lengthy statement in Damascus this evening. He said the opposition forces will cease fighting and will not enter the city of Tripoli. Regarding Yasir 'Arafat's presence in the city, Al-Labadi said: Tripoli is a Lebanese city, and we will neither enter it nor resume or continue fighting if 'Arafat remains quiet.

Al-Labadi reiterated the opposition movement's political and organizational demands. These are summed up in the convocation of a Fatah general congress in order to choose a new PLO leadership and to correct the PLO's political line and the Fatah financial situation. Concluding, Al-Labadi said: We will continue struggle in the political arena until we obtain the reforms we are demanding.

Beirut Reports 'Violent' Tripoli Clashes 17 Nov

NC171324 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The new contact lines in Tripoli have been witnessing violent clashes for some time now. The confrontation is taking place between Al-Mallulah, where Yasir 'Arafat's supporters are positioned, and Al-Mankubin locality, where the dissidents have reached. Shells are falling on the Bab at-Tabbanah, Al-Mallulah, and Al-Mankubin areas. There is extreme caution in the city in view of the many gunmen appearing in various parts of the city. There are reports that the dissidents will not tolerate the existing hostile situation in the city.

Tripoli Committee Demands Firm Cease-Fire

NC170803 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] At its meeting yesterday, the Coordination Committee of the North issued a statement that included the following points:

1. The committee demands that all the parties adhere to a total cease-fire in all areas and positions in whcih they are deployed

2. The committee emphasizes the need to begin a dialogue as a means to solve problems and differences among brothers of the same fate.

3. The committee emphasizes the principle of neutralizing the entire area of northern Lebanon in the wake of the battles that took place in part of the north. These battles have caused the most negative results on the human, social, and health levels.

4. The committee recommends the initiation of contacts with the parties concerned to demand that they adhere to their pledges made to the Coordination Committee and to the Tripoli personalities to adhere to a cease-fire.

5. The committee demands that the Arab Deterrent Force, proceeding from its pledge to constitute the security fence of Tripoli, to take action in the area of its deployment outside Tripoli, in coordination with the officials and forces present there, to implement the Coordination Committee resolutions not to open fire from these areas toward Tripoli.

6. The committee appeals to the Islamic and national forces and popular personalities in the areas surrounding Tripoli in Ad-Duniyah, 'Akkar, and Al-Kurah to implement the resolutions.

Turbul VOPR on Al-Baddawi Following Capture

NC170636 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Our kinfolk in Al-Baddawi camp have welcomed the Palestinian revolution forces following the expulsion of 'Arafat and the terrorist gangs and the cliques of deviation. All their attempts at further destruction and killing have been frustrated.

The revolutionary forces — As-Sa'iqah-Fatah-the uprising-the general command-the popular struggle — are securing food and fuel for the camp.

An official source of As-Sa'qah forces has affirmed that the 'Arafat forces are shelling the revolutionarly forces from their positions in Tripoli in hopes of inflicting losses on our kinfolk in the camp and damaging their houses. The As-Sa'qah forces official source warned the 'Arafat gangs of the consequences of this crime they are committing, saying: The 'Arafat gangs, after being driven from Al-Baddawi camp, are trying to move the battle to the city of Tripoli by deliberately shelling the revolution's positions. We do not want to endanger the security and safety of our brothers in Tripoli and hold the 'Arafat gangs fully responsible for their aggressive provocations.

The revolutionary forces began to provide food and other necessities for the camp's population yesterday.

As-Sa'iqah Commander Inspects PLO Camps 16 Nov

NC170659 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Salah ad-Din Ma'ani, the commander-in-chief of As-Sa'iqah forces, visited Nahr al-Barid camp at noon yesterday and acquainted himself with the conditions of our kinfolk and their needs. He emphasized the need to speedily supply all our kinfolk's requirements in Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps. He announced that the As-Sa'iqah and revolutionary forces will, during the next 2 days, begin increasing food supplies and other necessities to our people in both camps.

Brother al-Ma'ani also met with a number of Nahr al-Barid camp notables. He then inspected the As-Sa'iqah positions in Al-Barid and Al-Baddawi. Later he visited the wounded in the hospitals. When the As-Sa'iqah forces commander-in-chief met with the fighters, he emphasized that all revolutionary fighters should behave in a revolutionary and ethical way toward our kinfolk in both camps, saying: The era of domination, wrong practices, repressive methods, and armed manifestations is gone forever. As-Sa'iqah and the other revolutionary forces will not allow anyone to pursue repressive measures or any wrong [word indistinct] in our kinfolk's camps. All of us should safeguard the security and the freedom of people. We affirm that we are not an authority but we are revolutionaries.

Brother Salah Ma'ani expressed pain and bitterness over our people's suffering resulting from the fighting imposed by 'Arafat's line on us and our people. He said: We are anxious to save Tripoli from any dangers despite the fact that the 'Arafat forces are pursuing armed provocations against the revolutionary forces' positions. We hope that our brothers in Tripoli will succeed in convincing 'Arafat and his leadership to leave the city. This will save the city from further danger and restore security to it.

Al-'Asifah To Repulse All 'Arafat Plans

NC171039 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The Al-'Asifah Forces General Command has affirmed its determination to repulse all the suspect plans which 'Arafat and his gang, in cooperation with imperialism and reactionary Arab regimes, is implementing in the PLO with U.S. support. Al-'Asifah explained that for a few days 'Arafat continued his dangerous contacts with the Egyptian and Jordanian regimes and had announced, in successive statements, his readiness to visit Jordan and to ratify an agreement with King Husayn on the Palestinian issue. In doing so, he would be paving the way for joining the capitulation that Camp David represents. The statement said that these contacts and statements were followed up by 'Arafat envoys being sent to Jordan. The last envoy sent was Mahmud 'Abbas.

At the same time, the 'Arafat forces were opening fire at the Palestinian camps and positions in Tripoli. This was accompanied by a campaign of deception and distortion of facts within the framework of a propaganda campaign in which suspect Arab and foreign information media participated.

In its statement Al-'Asifah said that 'Arafat carried this out in disregard for the wave of displeasure which enveloped the citizens, the forces, and the national officials in Tripoli, particularly former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, asking him to leave Tripoli.

The statement emphasized that from the beginning, Al-'Asifah announced that it is committed to the Lebanese Nationalist Forces' stand in Tripoli and that it responds to the efforts of the Gulf summit not to start shooting in retaliation for 'Arafat's continued shelling of its positions and camps. The statement added: We are working in cooperation with the Lebanese and Palestinian forces to stop the military and political blackmail that is being pursued by 'Arafat.

Report on Al-'Asifah Communique

JN161922 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 16 Nov (SANA) — A state of great relief is prevailing in the ranks of the Palestinian masses in the Al-Baddawi camp, who received the fighters of the Fatah uprising and the Palestinian revolution with great delight. These fighters entered the camp after they had expelled the 'Arafat-Al-Wazir gang from the camp and saved the inhabitants from attempts to cause more bloody killing and destruction events.

A Fatah uprising military spokesman said that the General Command of Al-'Asifah Forces is currently supplying food to the inhabitants of Al-Baddawi camp, who were suffering from the practices of the deviationist gangs that fabricated the killing and destruction against them. The spokesman added that a meeting between national personages in Tripoli and the uprising leaders in the camp [fragment as received]

A military communique issued by the Al-'Asifah Forces General Command and broadcast by the Palestinian news agency here today said that the 'Arafat-Al-Wazir deviationist gang that fled from the camp took refuge in Tripoli and began to shell the camp from there with all kinds of weapons and missiles, including cluster bombs. The communique affirmed that 'Arafat is trying to cause a horrible massacre of the Palestnian people in the camp in order to use it in the misleading campaign he has been waging since he fabricated the Tripoli events.

The communique explained that the forces of the uprising and the Palestinian revolution are determined to foil 'Arafat's bloody plan and will make every effort to not respond to his fire in Tripoli in order to preserve the lives of the citizens in Al-Baddawi and Tripoli. The communiuqe holds 'Arafat and his gang responsible for anything that happens to the camp after they escaped. It also holds them responsible for any loss in lives and property in Tripoli as a result of 'Arafat's insistence on fabricating deaths and massacres.

AL-QABAS: 'Arafat Expected To Leave Tripoli

GF161558 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Nov 83 pp 1, 19

[Husayn Salamah dispatch]

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti political sources told *AL-QABAS* that they believe that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will leave Tripoli shortly. The political observers indicated that 'Arafat's departure from northern Lebanon was part of the agreement that was reached by the mediation committee which included Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign affairs minister, and information minister, and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, during their visit to Damascus recently.

The Kuwaiti sources indicated that the differences between the two sides of Fatah reflected fundamentally on the Palestinian and Arab efforts. These sources added that these differences became the basic impediment to convening the Arab summit which was scheduled to be held this month.

The same sources indicated that Syria offically inquired about the issue of Palestinian representation at the summit conference, asking: Who will represent the PLO following the latest developments in the Palestinian arena? The sources stressed that the differences between the Fatah sides is a Palestinian issue and that it must not be exploited on the Arab level.

These sources also pointed out that there are two views held by those who oppose 'Arafat leadership. The first is that held by Abu Musa and Abu Salih, who publically call for the toppling 'Arafat. The other view — which is held by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani — adheres to the need to preserve the Palestinian national institutions, particularly since the Palestinians used to blame some of the Arab sides for not adhering to the legitimate and democratic institutions and for bypassing those institutions.

The political sources also reported that the reasons preventing the Arab summit are the very same reasons that are currently preventing the convening of the Arab foreign ministers meeting.

GCC Delegation Leaves for Damascus 17 Nov

LD171126 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 17 (KUNA) — A Gulf Cooperation Council delegation left here for Damascus Thursday in an attempt to follow up council moves aimed at mediating a solution to the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli. The delegation includes Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf al-Thani and Kuwaiti Justice Minister Shaykh Salman Qu'ayid as-Sabah, as well as officials of the Kuwaiti justice and foreign ministries.

Before leaving Kuwait airport, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf, whose country currently chairs the GCC, stressed that the delegation's mission was a continuation of earlier Gulf efforts to secure a ceasefire in Tripoli earlier this week, which later broke down. He added that the GCC aimed to solve all inter-Arab and Palestinian disputes through peaceful means, and called on both sides in the Tripoli conflict between opponents and supporters of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to respect the ceasefire.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Damascus 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Kandari stressed the same point Wednesday after carrying out intensive contacts with political leaders, including Tripoli-based Lebanese ex-premier Rashid Karami, Chairman 'Arafat and Fatah opposition leader Abu Salih. Al-Kandari said that he had called on the two Palestinian leaders to respect the GCC-mediated ceasefire, while Karami had praised the high degree of responsibility shown by Kuwait and called on all Palestinian forces to leave Tripoli and northern Lebanon.

PLO Radio on 16 Nov Fighting, Al-Ma'ani Report

JN161842 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpts] On the military level, a ferocious battle has been raging since dawn today south of Al-Baddawi camp in northern Lebanon between the Palestinian revolution forces and the Syrian forces. The new Syrian offensive was preceded by intensive artillery and rocket shelling that included the Al-Baddawi camp, Tripoli port, the coastal road, and other axes in the city.

Our sources in Tripoli said that the fighting against the Syrian forces is ferocious and strong and that Syrian and Libyan tanks are intensively participating in the attack on Al-Baddawi. News agencies called today's violent artillery and rocket shelling of Al-Baddawi unprecedented and the battles between the camp's defenders and the Syrian, Libyan, and dissident forces — which were backed by tanks — grinding. These battles caused numerous casualties among the attackers, who directed their fire at the civilians. Meanwhile, the Syrian forces continued to further reinforce their armored units in northern Lebanon.

Commenting on the report of Salah al-Ma'ani's death, an authoritative source in our radio has stated that there was some confusion regarding the name and identity of the killed person, whose body was found with our forces in Tripoli. Therefore, this clarification [that Salah al-Ma'ani is not dead] is made.

WAFA: Al-Baddawi Not PLO's Last Stronghold

GF161812 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The WAFA news agency political analyst has commented on the statement made by the military spokesman of the Palestinian revolution general command yesterday which carried details of the heroic confrontation undertaken by our forces in defense of Al-Baddawi camp, where the symbols of Syria and the As-Sa'iqah organization, which receives Syrian instructions, and of Libya fell. The spokesman said:

Once again the Syrian regime has proved it is involved in the conspiracy. The conspiracy is designed not only to cause the disintegration of the PLO — military operations are being carried out — but also to annihilate the Palestinian people in the Palestinian camps. The symbols who were killed during the attacks on the Al-Baddawi camp — whether they be Syrian symbols or those associated with the forces of As-Sa'iqah, which receives its orders directly from the Syrian regime and gets its political, financial, and military support from this regime [fragment as heard]

We are not proud of killing a number of Palestinians in retaliation for the Syrian war of annihilation, nor are we proud of the Syrian and Libyan blood being shed by those killed and wounded who have been pushed by these regimes to take part in a confrontation which they have nothing to do with, a confrontation which is against their national convictions and their stances. If it is appropriate to believe that the repulsing of the attack on Al-Baddawi was a victory, then we will not express any joy, since it caused more pain than happiness.

We are not defending our last stronghold, as the news agencies in Tripoli or in Al-Baddawi say. The strongholds of the PLO are all over the world. They are in the Palestinian identity which can be renewed through blood and through sacrifice, and wherever there is a Palestinian who has learned how to pull the trigger in defense of himself, his identity, and his right to return home.

The Western media and most of the Arab media have disseminated reports that Yasir 'Arafat is leading the last battle in Al-Baddawi and in Tripoli. These agencies, as well as those who perpetrate this concocted plan, assumed that they would finish off with the PLO in accordance with this slogan. We would like to end such wishful thinking on their part. Yes, we were in Beirut and yes, we left it. But the PLO and its influence and symbols remained. Everybody must realize that we are fighting ferociously in northern Lebanon in defense of our camps and our kinfold. We are not thinking about fighting in defense of our last stronghold or believe that we are fighting our last battle.

Khalaf: Messages Sent to Soviets, Bendjedid

GF161910 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has noted that the Palestinian leadership sent an urgent message to the Soviet leadership providing details of the attacks being perpetrated by the Syrian and Libyan forces and their agents on the Al-Baddawi camp and northern Lebanon. Brother Abu Iyad added that Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid was telephoned yesterday in order to apprise him of the developments in the north.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives in Paris 15 November

LD161509 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 16 Nov 83

["Pool" item]

[Text] Paris, 16 Nov (TAP) — Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Paris on Tuesday for talks with French officials. The talks will apparently concern the situation prevailing in the Middle East, particularly in northern Lebanon, as well as with the French position on the Palestinian cause.

Khalid al-Hasan Meets Tunisian Premier

JN171032 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Tunis, 17 Nov (INA) — Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mazali met here last night with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member. Palestinian sources told the INA correspondent that discussions during the meeting dealt with developments in the Lebanese arena, particularly those related to the onslaught against the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership.

Fatah's Abu Kuwayk Attacks 'Arafat Policies

JN161126 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Qadri Samih Abu Kuwayk, member of the revolutionary uprising in Fatah, has praised Syria's steadfast position under President Hafiz al-Asad, affirming that this position represents the solid rock on which all imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary conspiracies founder. During a meeting with university students and Palestinian masses in Aleppo last night, Brother Qadri explained the position of Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters toward the Palestinian revolution and the Fatah movement as well as the retractions by the organization's leadership, especially with regard to what happened before and after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and the establishment of confederation relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Jordanian regime.

Abu Kuwayk also exposed Yasir 'Arafat's capitulatory attempts through the Reagan initiative and the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, affirming that these plans aim at subjugating the Palestinian revolution in accordance with the U.S.-Zionist will. He also showed how Yasir 'Arafat had plunged headlong into these projects although they did not offer anything more than spreading the atmosphere of frustration and capitulation in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance. He also linked Yasir 'Arafat's dealings with these capitulatory projects and his decision to make Tunis his headquarters, asserting that such an options are evidence of the capitulatory policy to which he linked himself.

Brother Abu Kuwayk, member of the revolutionary uprising in Fatah, also expalined with dates and figures Yasir 'Arafat's contacts with the U.S. Administration before and after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, clarifying Yasir 'Arafat's refusal of any dialogue with Syria although the Revolutionary Council and the Central Committee had decided that a strategic dialogue should be held with Syria to defend the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Strategy Committee Ends Meeting Amid Differences

LD170005 Kuwait KUNA in English 1735 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] London, Nov 16 (KUNA) — OPEC's long term strategy committee concluded its meeting here Wednesday afternoon after two days of talks on the group's future policies. The six oil ministers from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iran, Iraq and Venezuela agreed to refer back to their experts the thorny issues of long term pricing production policy.

According to conference sources a distinct split in thinking had developed among the countries represented. On the one hand there were those who favoured a policy of cutting back production to maximise the price level. This was reportedly the view of Venezuela, Iran and Algeria. In the other camp, the sources said, were members like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia which were more concerned with holding prices steady to enable OPEC to regain its lost market share.

As he left the conference, the Venezuela minister Jose Moreno Leon said the committee would instruct OPEC experts to report back on these and other key issues to the full meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva on Dec 7. He also noted that the question of cooperation with non-OPEC producers had been raised during the London talks, but did not elaborate further.

The differences in approach to OPEC's long term strategy were evident in a paper presented to the meeting by Iran. According to Iranian delegation sources, this paper stressed that OPEC should be striving in the long term to maximise revenues rather than concentrating on reactivating demands for its oil. The paper went on to stress that this could mean OPEC opting for a higher price for its crude even at the expense of lower production.

The sources said the Iranian view was that OPEC should be ready to act as a unified group, and if necessary, cut its total output ceiling and redistribute individual quotas. Saudi Arabia the sources noted, favoured an approach based on keeping prices steady and only introducing a long term strategy after 1985.

The Iranian proposal for maximising revenues is believed to have the support of both Venezuela and Algeria within the committee.

BAHRAIN

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Concludes Visit

GF161838 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Manama, Nov 16 (WAKH) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Jabir as-Sabah left Manama this evening for home after a 3-day official visit to Bahrain. Shaykh Nawwaf held talks with his Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah on cooperation and coordination in security fields between the two countries, the situation in the region in general, and other issues of mutual interest. He was seen off by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Immigration and Passports Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and senior police and public security officers.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ Interview

GF170510 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 16 Nov 83 p 5

[Interview with Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah by *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* correspondent Hafiz Imam in Bahrain — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Imam] Your Excellency, how do you assess the most important achievement — within the GCC framework — in coordination and security cooperation among the region's states?

[Nawwaf] In reality, the security cooperation among the Arab Gulf countries has always existed, but recently it adopted a more scientific and organized method than before, through cooperation and coordination among the GCC countries.

[Imam] To what extend can the current and the expected security cooperation among the GCC countries guarantee the security of this region and protect it from the threats against it or those being prepared internally and externally?

[Nawwaf] On many occasions, the Western information media have said that our region is surrounded by dangers on all sides, but the fact is thatwe are a part of this world and its incidents affect us as we affect it. We are not isolated from the changes of the century. Ee are facing these effects and paying the price of civilization with all confidence, coordination, and cooperation and with the support of the alertness and courage of the region's peoples who have known nothing but permanent peace and security.

[Imam] Thus, does Your Excellency believe that security cooperation among the GCC countries is enough to confront those threats or should a comprehensive security agreement in this regard be adopted?

[Nawwaf] We support any collective effort that organizes and coordinates security work. From this point of view we also support any security agreement among the GCC countries which serves the various sides in the security field, on the condition that the terms of the agreements do not conflict with our constitution and laws and with our agreements with other countries.

[Imam] What is your view on the effect of the Iraq-Iran war on the region's security and stability and Gulf efforts to prevent and put an end to these threats?

[Nawwaf] We and all the region's peoples hope that the two Muslim countries will respond to the calls for peace and end the fighting between the Muslim peoples, the continuation of which serves only the enemies of Islam.

KUWAIT

Amir Calls Fahd, Qatari Amir on Lebanon Events

LD161046 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] His highness the amir made two telephone calls this morning, one to his brother His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of sister Saudi Arabia, and the second to his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of sister Qatar, to consult with them primarily on what is happening between the brothers in Tripoli, Lebanon, and on the Arab situation in general. It was agreed to continue the efforts being made by the ministerial delegation approved by the recent Gulf summit conference in Doha to implement the agreement reached between the parties concerned on halting the fighting and the shedding of pure blood.

Air Force Unit Leaves for GCC Exercises

LD161502 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Nov (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti Air Force [unit]left for Riyadh today to take part in the first joint air exercises of the GCC member states. Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah visited Ahmad al-Jabir air base to inspect the force and to watch it leave. Shaykh Salim was accompanied by Major General 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanin, chief of the general staff.

Greek Envoy Comments on Turkish Cypriot State

LD162315 Kuwait KUNA Diplomatic Information Service in Arabic 2020 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 16 Nov (KUNA) — 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs, today received Greek Ambassador to Kuwait Emmanuel Stamathiou [name and title as received]. Following the meeting the Kuwaiti minister said that the ambassador explained his country's views regarding the new developments in Cyprus following the declaration of an independent State for the Turkish Cypriots in northern Cyprus. The Greek ambassador reiterated his country's opposition to the establishment of a Turkish Cypriot state in Cyprus.

Asked if the United States had a role in regard to the proclamation of the new state in Cyprus as a gesture of retaliation for Greece's demand for closing the U.S. military bases in the country, the ambassador said "I cannot reply in the affirmative to this question. If I answer yes, I have to prove it and I have no proof. However, I wish to affirm that the United States had full knowledge of Turkey's intention to proclaim a state for Turkish Cypriots, and the United States could have pressured Turkey and prevented it from taking such a step."

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid today received the Greek ambassador and discussed the current situation in Cyprus following the proclamation of a Turkish Cypriot state.

The chief of protocol at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, Ahmad 'Abd al-Wahid al-Ayyub, today received Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Kaya Toperi. Discussions during the meeting covered common issues.

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Addresses Consultative Council

GF161900 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Muscat, Nov 16 (WAKH) — His Majesty Sultan Qabus today opened the State Consultative Council's second term. In his address marking the occasion his majesty said:

Honourable members of the council,

It gives us great pleasure to meet you today on the occasion of the beginning of the second term of the State Consultative Council. It is also our pleasure to begin our address to you by confirming our belief in the important role of the council in our efforts to build and develop our country for the welfare and prosperity we are striving to achieve for our people.

In the course of two years since its inception, the council has made a noticeable contribution in various economic and social fields, and has manifested a keen desire to arrive at useful and workable recommendations which can contribute to and support existing development projects in these areas, and in our appreciation of these efforts, and because of the importance of cooperation between the public and the private sectors, we gave instructions to the ministers concerned with the role of the council to address the council during its sessions, outlining the activities of their ministries and projects which they propose to initiate as part of their development programme, in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas through objective discussions. The aim of this was to serve the public interest and to assist in making proposals for the effective solution of any problems, and the removal of any obstacles which impede the implementation of our work in the various areas of development. From all this and on the basis of studies carried out in some areas the council was able to arrive at proposals which contained positive recommendations which, after meeting with our approval, were referred to the government with our directives to those ministries concerned to study the best way of implementing the recommendations.

The fact that we feel satisfied with the positive direction taken by the experimental stage of the council during the last two years, and the fact that we have taken steps to appoint a larger number of members of the council who represent the private sector than in the previous term and to appoint new members, this, and the fact that we have taken steps to open more channels of coordination between the council and the government, is a clear indication of our desire to provide more and wider opportunities for the participation of the citizens in the affairs of the council and in involving them in the opinions and the advice given by the council.

The steps we have taken also indicate our concern to develop further and to strengthen the existing cooperation between the council and the government to enable them together to realise their responsibilities in a way that will strengthen our ability to achieve the desired objectives of our development programme.

In view of all this, we hope that your council in its present term will strive even more to deal effectively with various economic and social problems by studying them in a practical way, and by establishing priorities, retaining a good balance between our aspirations and our capabilities, and paying attention to the necessary needs of the citizens regarding the provision of services for them as well as developing their productive capacity or solving their problems in their everyday life.

Your council is capable in this respect, and in all the areas we have referred to, to be of great assistance to the government by submitting proposals and recommendations which are based on complete and objective studies, proposals and recommendations which are in keeping with the practical situation we are in and which contribute to the fulfilment of the approved objectives of our development policy.

At this time while we are endeavouring to strengthen our economy in the face of the existing world economic situation, we give thanks to God the Almighty for the blessing of stability He has bestowed upon our country and also for His gift of the natural resources which He has graciously given to our land. These blessings have made possible the continued realisation of the main objectives of the second give year plan, in accordance with a practical economic policy which had proved its practicability in implementing the necessary projects. In spite of the fact that this is a source of increased satisfaction to us and that it strengthens our determination, nevertheless, it imposes upon us all greater responsibility which requires more cooperation and greater effort to march forward with renewed effort in order to achieve a better standard of living for our people.

While we entrust you with the responsibility of giving advice in various matters connected with our development, we hope that you will cooperate in discharging your duty with unquestionable honesty and sincerity, and that you will make a tangible contribution which will enrich the development of our good land.

We also hope that you will be guided in all your work by the tenets of our Islamic religion, and the values and traditions which have been passed on by generations in this country, generations which have set good examples of self-sacrifices and dedication for the upliftment of their well-being.

We pray to God the Almighty, to guide our steps and to bless our efforts with success in everything that is for our good.

PDRY

Chairman on Palestinian Differences, Aid

GF161608 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has stressed the importance of preserving the unity, cohesion, and position of the struggle of Syria, of the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, since they represent the basic confrontation positions that defend the dignity and honor of the Arab nation. In an interview published in the magazine *FILISTIN ATH-THAWRAH* on the 20th anniversary of the revolution and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the party, he added that we — being an Arab progressive power and a national liberation movement — have to present all forms of backing and support to Syria, to the Palestinian revolution, and to the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in order to confirm that the PDRY will fulfill its duties and meet its responsibilities.

On the meetings held with the Palestinian leaderships, the brother secretary general emphasized that there were fruitful and positive results emanating from these meetings. He also referred to the PDRY's anxiousness to preserve the unity of the Fatah movement and the unity of the Palestinian revolution, because this stems from its anxiousness to preserve the unity and cohesion of the Arab national liberation movement.

Answering a question by the magazine *FILISTIN ATH-THAWRAH* on the donations given to the PDRY, he said that a large portion of the funds for the 5-year development plan was donated by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, in addition to some fraternal Arabs. He pointed out that some of the Arab brothers do not honor their commitments in this regard.

QATAR

Amir Receives President Reagan's Message

GF161454 Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 16 Nov (QNA) — Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan dealing with cooperation between the two countries in various fields. The message was conveyed by U.S. Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel during a meeting with the Qatari amir this morning. The meeting was attended by Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani and U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Charles Dunbar.

Hodel Meets Oil Minister

GF161102 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance and oil, met at his office today with Donald Hodel, U.S. secretary of energy, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by 'Abdallah Hamad al-'Atiyah, director of public relations at the Finance and Oil Ministry; Charles Dunbar, U.S. ambassador in Qatar; and Scott Loney, economy and trade attache at the U.S. Embassy in Doha. Following the meeting, Secretary Hodel told QNA that his meeting with Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani was good. The U.S. secretary of energy expressed his deep appreciation for the views of the finance and oil minister on the oil market. He said: I will return to my country with good impressions on my visit to the State of Qatar.

Energy Secretary Leaves Doha

GF162034 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 16 Nov (WAKH) — U.S. Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel and the accompanying delegation left Doha for the UAE today after concluding his visit to Qatar at the invitation of Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance and oil.

Iranian Official Arrives in Doha 17 Nov

GF170909 Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 17 Nov (QNA) — Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, Iranian assistant foreign minister, arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this morning on a brief visit to the State of Qatar. He was received at Doha International Airport by Ahmad 'Ali Ma'rafiyah, Qatari Transport and Communications Ministry under secretary, and Mohammad Taqi Mashayekh, Iranian charge d'affaires in Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

Fahd Appeals For Peace, Unity in Lebanon

LD170015 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The following appeal has come from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers, the sons of the Arab nation on the land of Lebanon: Today I address myself to you again in the name of all that links us in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with every one of you in the land of Lebanon in every position of Palestinian struggle — links of faith, blood, sweat, language, and history. I address myself to you from the depth of a heart bleeding from the painful tragedy that has befallen the sons of the Arab nation in many a place in the region. What is most serious and heartbreaking is what is now happening in the town of Tripoli and around the Palestinian camps in northern Lebanon, despite the cease-fire decision, and the fierce fighting and appaling destruction repeatedly occurring every day on various Lebanese fronts despite the Lebanese agreement on a cease-fire.

Brothers, on the tongue of every Arab living in this world today is a bewildering question which crops up every morning and night: Why is an Arab fighting his Arab brother? Why is Arab blood being shed by a hand where the same blood circulates? Why is it that an Arab burns his own land, disperses his kinfolk, and blows up his own home? What shall we say to the world that has been watching the 8-year fratricidal fighting in Lebanon? How can we persuade the states of this world of the just character of our cause? How can we ask the world to stand with us to regain our land, our rights, and homelands if we cannot be equitous among oursleves in order to back up our causes?

Brothers in Lebanon and on the battlefield, a few days ago we perceived a ray of hope illuminating the roads before you following the cease-fire, the meeting of your leaders for the first time since the beginning of the tragedy and their accord on a single voice among you, from which you would search for the best ways of achieving a comprehensive national concorde. What we fear most is to see this ray disappear before finding the right path of cordiality, love, and sincerity on the road to an integrated unity.

Brothers, should we not save our youth and preserve our weapons, abilities, and forces for the confrontation with the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation in the battle of destiny, instead of letting the enemy, who is crouching over us, exhaust our manpower and resources and then attack us when we have no more men or equipment? Today I say to you with all sincerity that I can hardly find any reason or motive to justify what is happening on the soil of Lebanon, whatever those reasons and motives might be. In fact, I can hardly believe in the existence of an external factor that would allow a brother to shed the blood of his brother. Even if we assumed, for the sake of argument, that there is such a factor, is there not wisdom in assessing matters and controling one's feelings by rejecting these factors and motives, whatever their source? Self-denial is the true heroism in the battlefields and is one of the highest levels of leadership.

Brothers, have we forgotten the enemy waiting around us? Or have we forgotten our struggle to liberate Jerusalem and clean every inch of our land that the enemy has desecrated with his feet? We have our legimiate rights, which the whole world knows. If we lose them during our conflicts and disputes, how can we demand them, and from whom?

Brothers, I do not address you today from my position of responsibility as the servant of the two holy mosques only, but also as an Arab brother of every one of you, who shares with you your pelasures and calamities, your hopes and agonies, and who looks with you to the day of victory on the road of common destiny. After that, I address my appeal sincerely to all the leaders and commanders of the Arab nation, urging them to take unified and immediate action to stop the bloody tragedy. Whenver we stop the bleeding from one vein, blood begins to spurt from another vein of this tragedy. We must continue our struggle and intensify our efforts without despairing until God realizes our hopes and sets our feet on the right course leading to the good of all our peoples. God alone is the one capable of bringing harmony to the hearts. He is the giver of victory, and to Him we all will return.

Oil Minister on Production Quotas, Prices

PM162035 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 5 Nov 83 p 15

[Interview with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani by Hidayat Sultan as-Salim published simultaneously with Kuwait's *AL-MAJALIS* magazine — date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Minister, during his expanded meeting with professors and students of King 'Abd al-'Aziz University, His Majesty King Fahd discussed the Kingdom's oil policy in a very clear manner. We understood from this explanation that the Kingdom rejects any increase in oil prices at present. Will Your Excellency explain the reasons for this? According to our information, certain producing countries will once again bring up the question of prices and production. What will your attitude be toward this proposal?

Answer: The real cause for the present setback, the drop in oil prices, was the [earlier] increase in oil prices. This was a mistake which we committed in OPEC. We should therefore rectify this mistake by stopping price increases for some time so that there will be renewed demand for oil and so that the producing countries will be able to produce enough oil for their requirements. In the present circumstances every OPEC country, whatever its circumstances may be, is suffering from the drop in production and needs to increase its production level. It can increase production only if there is an increase in world demand for oil and in the rate of consumption. Therefore, maintaining the prices as they are for 2 or 3 years will lead to a revival in world demand, and, therefore, OPEC countries can once again increase their production.

In fact, oil's political power has diminished because of the drop in demand for it. If demand increases as a result of the present freeze of prices, which will happen, the Arab nation will achieve a great political gain, in which case oil will regain its power and its domination of the markets.

Question: Nobody doubts that the chaos in production and prices led to the present recession in the world oil markets just as the surplus led to chaos in these markets. Does Your Excellency believe that the measures which OPEC recently took with regard to prices and production policy have achieved the desired results?

Answer: To a large extent, but the time factor is the basic and important thing. If we continue to apply this policy for a period of time, the world markets will flourish once again and return to their previous state.

Question: The West is at present concentrating on the Iranian threat to close the Strait of Hormuz. In the light of your experience, Mr Minister, do you believe there is a possibility of Iran's closing the Strait? Don't you believe that the closure of the Strait would harm Iran itself?

Answer: In fact the closure of the Strait would cause damage to all the Gulf countries including Iran. It would also cause damage to all world countries importing oil from the Arab Gulf area. I believe Iran will not take such a step unless it is prevented from exporting its oil, in which case it will act as the proverb says: A drowning person is not afraid to become wet. However, if Iran closed the Strait the closure would not last long because it would be reopened within a short period of time. This would cause the entry of foreign forces into the region, something that we do not want. In any case, if that happens we will not be the cause of it.

Question: According to reports, certain producing countries are not abiding by the OPEC decision and are therefore selling oil at prices below what has been agreed upon, which helps them increase their production at the expense of other countries. Will OPEC be adopting any stand in this regard?

Answer: Previously certain countries used to sell their oil at reduced prices and increase their production, but we after held an OPEC conference last March in London these countries stopped giving discounts and to a large extent abided by the production level assigned them. But during the past 2 months certain countries have been selling quantities of oil in excess of what they are allowed but at the official price. Last week we received information that a certain OPEC member state, which I do not wish to name, began giving discounts of up to 40 cents per barrel so that it can sell larger quantities of oil. If this is true, I consider it very serious; it will harm all the OPEC countries, including the country concerned. Nevertheless, the discipline achieved within OPEC so far is a source of pride.

Question: A few days ago the Venezuelan oil minister visited the Kingdom and other countires in the area. Does the visit have anything to do with any tendency to reconsider pricing and production policy?

Answer: I do not think that any OPEC country can seriously talk about increasing prices at present. Everybody knows that prices will not be increased, and the Venezuelan minister is one of those who definitely supports freezing prices and keeping production levels as they are.

Question: Within the framework of Gulf cooperation, do you have plans for joint oil projects that will go beyond the existing level of coordination, and what in your opinion are the urgent projects that should be set up in order to strengthen and widen Gulf cooperation?

Answer: We are at present considering in the GCC a number of joint projects, including, for example, a gas pipeline from Qatar, where there are large quantities of gas, to some of the Gulf countries and selling it at world market prices. This project will be of advantage to both sides, to Qatar, which will be able to sell its gas at world market prices, and to the countries that need this gas in that they will have a secure source of this important product. In addition there is a project to build an oil refinery in Oman and a project to build a pipeline for the export of oil through Oman which will bypass the Strait of Hormuz area. We are also considering the possibility of building a joint refinery for the refining heavy oil and fuels in Bahrain. This project will be carried out in cooperation among the Kingdom, Kuwait, and Qatar. We have many ideas that are under review and which in the future might materialize into projects.

Question: In addition to the oil pipeline through the Sultanate of Oman and the Qatar gas pipeline, there is a project to build an Iraqi oil pipeline through the Kingdom terminating on the Red Sea and another project to build an oil pipeline to the Aden oil refinery. How much progress has been made in these projects, and do you believe that they are economically viable?

Answer: Generally no pipeline should be built unless it is economically viable. Nevertheless, the economic factor is not the only consideration. Rather, strategic considerations should also be taken into account.

With regard to the Iraqi oil pipeline, the Iraqi brothers have made such a request and the Kingdom approved it. We are now in the final stages of our discussions after the preliminary engineering studies in this regard have been completed. The project could materialize if we complete the remaining stages. With regard to the oil pipeline to the Aden refinery, the Kingdom is not so far a party to it. As for the pipeline through the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom is considering this possibility and is discussing it with the sisterly GCC countries. A decision on it will be made shortly.

Question: The drop in production in accordance with the OPEC decision had many adverse affects on both the nation and on the production and processing of gas as well as on electric power generation and water desalination and other projects in some of the Gulf countries. Has this reduction had the same effect on the Kingdom?

Answer: Yes, the reduced demand for light oil has led to the emergence of major problems in gas production and in meeting the demand for gas for electric power generation and water desalination. It has also affected the operation of Aramco utilities and some other industries. We are trying to deal with these problems by various means and have succeeded in this regard. Nothing disturbing has happened except once when in the past electricity was cut off for about 1 day in the whole eastern region, which caused grumbling among the citizens and losses in the various utilities. We hope this will not recur.

Question: Is it true that the Kingdom is at present covering Iraq's oil production quota and that this production is being delivered to Iraq's traditional customers? How can you compensate for this cover in the future?

Answer: In fact neither we nor the rest of the brothers in the Gulf can compensate for Iraq's production which it cannot export. Nevertheless, arrangements have been made between us and Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf countries to alleviate the problems which Iraq is facing as a result of the closure of the pipeline that crosses Syrian territory to the Mediterranean and the shutdown of Iraqi oil exports through Iraqi ports on the Gulf.

AL-JAZIRAH: World Communism Behind Fatah Split

PM131522 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 5 Nov 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Communism and Communists Are Always Like This"]

[Excerpts] The question that is worrying us and impels us to seek a clear answer is: In whose interest is the dissidence within the PLO and Fatah and in whose interest is it that this dissidence, staged under the guise of the desire to carry out political and administrative reforms within Fatah, has developed into a military mutiny and political coup by which not only Fatah but also the PLO political leadership is being liquidated?

We are of the opinion — for which we are responsible — that the nature of the dissidence can be ascertained from the identity of those who staged it, those who planned it and prepared for it secretly until the zero hour when it was proclaimed. They are the Marxist-Leninist communist faction, one of the several elements of which the unified Palestine liberation movement, Fatah, consists.

There is a well-known established fact — that when the Marxist-communist left within a movement coalesces with the nonleftist and non-Marxist elements of such a movement, this coalition is only transitional and tactical and not a coalition of strategy and destiny. In other words, the aspirations of the Marxist left are always placed above its political, membership, and even ethical commitments together with the rest of the elements in achieving the national objectives for which such a national body was set up.

The Marxist-communists, on the basis of historical experiments in the struggle of scores of people, are always known to place their own objectives above the general objectives of the people of whom they are a part. The achievement of communist control of a faction or an organization belonging to a struggling people is a thousand times more important than the achievement of the objectives which are sought by the people but from which the communist achieve no gains for themselves.

Their loyalty is always to their Marxist ideology and its interests, even if such interests are achieved at the cost of the cause of freedom and independence and the national sovereignty of the people to whom they belong in name only.

The communists do not care if the people to whom they belong lose their cause or if all the gains of many long years of struggle are lost if this achieves for them a gain, even if temporary, that strengthens their power and domination.

This is why the peoples are always aware of the danger of communism and of the need to beware of communists' treachery against their comrades-in-arms. This is also why noncommunists are anxious to cut the communist minorities down to size and not give them more importance or weight than they deserve.

Therefore, it goes without saying that the party that has real and direct interest in the political rift that developed into an armed mutiny within Fatah is international communism, which has its own elements inside every national entity struggling for a national cause, such as Fatah. The communist elements within Fatah, which are agents of international communism, have decided to deal a violent and fatal blow to the noncommunist and nonleftist elements in Fatah, even if such a blow leads to Fatah's being smashed as a national, revolutionary, democratic entity and one of the Palestinian people's national, revolutionary, democratic entities.

Such is communism and such are the communists in every noncommunist arena. Honor to them means achieving victory for themselves and their ideology. Victory for them means destroying every national entity, even if destroying it leads to the loss of a long struggle and the death of the last opportunity for the people to which they belong.

UAE

U.S. Energy Secretary Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF162036 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Nov (WAKH) — U.S. Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Doha, leading an official delegation on a 3-day visit to the UAE at the invitation of UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, who received him at the airport. Mr Hodel stated that he will hold talks with UAE officials dealing with the current energy situation and means of enchancing bilateral relations. He added that his talks with Dr al-'Utaybah will complete the discussions he held with Dr al-'Utaybah during his recent visit to the United States. The visit by Mr Hodel to the UAE comes within the framework of a tour he is making to a number of oil-producing Arab countries.

Libyan Congress Secretary Departs 16 Nov

GF161824 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Nov 16 (WAKH) — Secretary of the People's Conference in Libya Muhammad az-Zarruk Rajab left here today after a 2-day visit to the UAE as part of a Gulf tour. Rajab handed UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan a written message from Libyan officials dealing with bilateral relations.

Soviet Exhibition, Aeroflot Link Scheduled

PM160922 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 83 p 1

[*ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Gulf bureau report: "For First Time in History a Soviet Exhibition in Ash-Shariqah"]

[Text] *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* has learned that the first Soviet exhibition to be held in the Gulf will take place in Ash-Shariqah city, the UAE, in February and will last 10 days.

A large Soviet delegation headed by the chairman of the Moscow chamber of commerce and industry and including four trade officials will visit the UAE in November to discuss the resources necessary for the success of the exhibition.

It is to be pointed out that the first Soviet Aeroflot plane landed at Dubayy airport the day before yesterday. The special plane carried 18 thoroughbred Arab horses purchased at a recent auction of Arab horses in Moscow. The buyer says that the aim of the deal is to bring back Arab thoroughbreds from all parts of the world to their original home in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly from the Soviet Union, where there is a large stud farm in one of the smaller Asian republics. The farm received a valuable gift from the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, the "Aswan horse," which sired more than 260 Arab thoroughbreds, most of which were sold at auction.

Meanwhile, Aeroflot (the Russian airline) will launch a regular service between Moscow and Dubayy beginning next year.

It is worth noting that the Soviet delegation that will attend the exhibition will include about 200 trade officials, athletes, artists, and ballet dancers. A large delegation from the Dubayy Chamber of Commerce and Trade recently toured four East European countries — Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany — in order to activate trade with these countries. This represents an unprecedented new step for the countries of the area.

Mubarak Receives U.S.'s Rumsfeld 16 November

NC160941 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Al-'Urubah Palace this morning Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East, who is currently visiting Egypt. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo.

Ghali-Rumsfeld Meeting

NC161514 Cairo MENA in English 1445 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, Nov 16 (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed at his meeting today with U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld Egypt's stance vis-a-vis the Lebanese crisis and urged the withdrawal of Israeli forces as soon as possible as well as the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory. Dr Ghali also urged parallel (?and concurrent) concentration of efforts to solve the Palestinian problem and the Lebanese issue. Dr Ghali stressed the need that Israel should adopt confidence-building measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and stop and freeze the building of settlements, which are illegal and illegitimate and represent an obstacle to peace. The task of the new U.S. envoy concerning the efforts to pull out the foreign troops from Lebanon was also discussed.

Rumsfeld Departs 16 Nov

NC161409 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA) — U.S. Middle East Envoy Donald Rumsfeld left Cairo this afternoon following a 1-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He was seen off at the airport by Sami Thabit, chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Ministry Studying Situation in Cyprus

NC161148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA) — MENA has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is studying with great attention the situation in Cyprus in light of the Turkish community's declaration of its secession and the establishment of an independent state in northern Cyprus. MENA has learned that the Cyprus Government held contacts with the Arab Republic of Egypt yesterday and today concerning this subject.

Mubarak Receives Kiprianou Message

NC161621 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA) — MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak today received a message from Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou dealing with the situation in Cyprus, especially in light of the Turkish community's declaration of independence and the establishment of its independent state in northern Cyprus yesterday, Tuesday.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali Views Palestinian, Arab Relations

NC162135 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Egypt is conducting constant talks with the PLO and that there is a Palestinian desire to revive the Egyptian-French plan on a solution to the Palestinian issue. 'Ali made a statement saying that Egypt cares about the substance of its relations with the Arab countries. These relations are good and are improving. He said the absence of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arab countries did not affect Egypt's obligations towards the Arab issues. 'Ali said Egypt is in favor of holding a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. He added that Egypt cautions against military escalation in the area because this will lead to more violence.

'Ali on Israeli Settlements

NC161418 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA) — Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Egypt continues to strongly denounce and condemn the Israeli policy of building settlements, just as it has always condemned that policy. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Paris, 'Ali commented on the news regarding Israel's establishment of five new settlements saying: We regard the policy of building settlements as illegal and illegitimate. This is our immutable stand. The world's stand on this policy is also well known. In addition, 'Ali said, the building of settlements only leads to more tension in the occupied Arab territories and places a major obstacle in the way of encouraging other Arab nations — such as Jordan and the Palestinians — to negotiate.

'Ali, France's Mauroy Meet, Make Statements

NC162042 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Following a 1-hour meeting with French premier [Pierre Mauroy], Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that they reviewed the situation in the Middle East and that the Egyptian and French viewpoints were identical. They also reviewed bilateral relations, demonstrating the constant and extensive cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy said that France deeply regrets the recent developments in the Middle East, adding: We are trying to appeal to the voice of right and peace. Mauroy said there is close Egyptian-French cooperation. He added that they reviewed bilateral cooperation in the nuclear field and in the food and agricultural industries. They also reviewed the general situation and current problems. Concluding his statement, Mauroy expressed his hope of visiting Egypt during next year. Earlier today, 'Ali met with Mr [Jean-Louis] Bianco, secretary general of the French Presidency.

Ghali Meets With Palestinian Delegation

NC162045 Cairo MENA in English 2020 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, Nov 16 (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali conferred here tonight with a Palestinian delegation, comprising Nabil Sha't, member of the PLO Central Council, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, head of the Palestinian mission in Cairo and the Fatah representative in Cairo, and Sa'id Kamal, member of the Palestinian National Council, within the framework of continuous contacts between Egypt and the PLO on the deteriorating situation in Tripoli, north Lebanon. Members of the delegation briefed Ghali on the latest developments in Tripoli, north Lebanon. They expressed appreciation for Egypt for its role and efforts to preserve the Palestinian man and to forestall the plot aimed at exterminating him. The delegation called for more efforts at the international and Arab level to halt the massacre perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

NPUG Leader Interviewed by AS-SAFIR

Part One

NC151155 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Nov 83 p 13

[Part one of interview given in Prague by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping to *AS-SAFIR* correspondent Majdi Nasif; date not given]

[Text] Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] in Egypt, has warned of the implications which a failure of the democratic experiment can cause. He said that the opposition parties will boycott the coming elections if they are held on the basis of the absolute majority party list. In an interview with *AS-SAFIR* in Prague, Muhyi ad-Din deals with the aspects of the democracy crisis in Egypt and the Camp David experiment. He also outlines the grouping's goals and its role, and calls for the independence of the state machinery from the government party, which he considers to be the way for solving Egypt's problems. Following is the interview which we publish in two parts, today and tomorrow:

[Nasif] About 2 years have passed since the assassination of As-Sadat. Do you believe now that a change has taken place in Egypt and to what extent?

[Muhyi ad-Din] Naturally a change has taken place. Indisputably, President Husni Mubarak's rule is different from Anwar as-Sadat's rule. Husni Mubarak's dealing with issues, and even with As-Sadat's policies, is substantially different from As-Sadat's. However all this is still within the framework of limited quantitative changes, not qualitative changes. For example:
Under Mubarak's democracy, the stance on the opposition forces has put them in a better position. The opposition's newspapers are published. No members of the opposition have been detained for some time. In As-Sadat's era, whenever someone circulated our statements, people were detained, later released, and so forth. But now about 1 year has passed since anyone was detained. However, a great deal is being said about the freedom of the opposition parties' movement and the equality between them and the ruling party, which is monopolizing all sources of power in Egypt. This disgraces democracy in Egypt to a great extent. There are also many laws restricting freedoms. These laws are still in force. The most serious of these laws now is the local council election law, which works on the basis of an absolute majority party list. A very strange thing is that President Husni Mubarak has expressed his views. He is for the proportional list, but he does not want to change the law in respect of the local elections. In my view, if next year's elections are held on the basis of an absolute majority party list, all the opposition parties will boycott the elections. This means that the experiment will proceed with one list; namely, that of the National [Democratic] Party. This will be a blow to the democracy experiment in Egypt and will shake its foundation.

[Nasif] Will this change the situation?

[Muhyi ad-Din] I believe it will be a turning point by the masses who, from the base to the summit, reject the idea of the absolute majority party list. The number of members of parties does not exceed two percent of the Egyptian people. This idea means that nominations will be limited to these people. Hence, 98 percent of the Egyptian people will be deprived of making nominations to the elections. This is absolutely undemocratic. We have proposed either a return to the former system or the list — not the party list — should be open to independents. The party-list system, however, does not exist anywhere else in the whole world. It exists only in Egypt. We have demanded that this law be amended. In fact, if this law is not amended this will be a substantial turning point in the masses' stances on what the present regime claims to be democracy. There is also another question related to the 1984 elections. This is the guarantee which will ensure freedom of elections, and the question of the pressures that are made on several opposition leaderships, through enticement and pressure, to leave their posts to nominate themselves for the National [Democratic] Party.

An unequal battle has begun in Egypt, a battle that does not herald the achievement of the concept of democracy, which we had hoped would prevail. We notice that the situation proceeded well until last April and May, then began to regress slightly. There is a near halt in the democratic march manifested in the issuance of the lawyers law and the documents law, etc. As a matter of fact, this was a shock. If we add to this the fact that the local elections law has not been changed, we must admit that the hopes we pinned on improving the march and on the change that was quietly taking place have almost stopped. Egypt is facing a crisis indeed, and unless this crisis is tackled wisely, Egypt will face very violent problems in the near future.

There is a current trend in Egypt; Husni Mubarak announced atat a number of parliamentary committee meetings that he does not want his name in Egyptian history to be associated with any false elections. But there is also the idea of 'guaranteed' free elections. Elections are not merely a ballot. Before an elector reaches the ballot box, what are the types of pressure exerted on him? In addition, there are temptations by the government for certain people to change their stand. This is a crime punishable by law. When you tell a suffering citizen to change his stand and receive an apartment, this is a bribe punishable by law in any country in the world. Another issue, for instance, is forging elections. The committee chairman, who makes people elect without attending, or who closes the ballot of a certain elector [as published], is supposed to be given a sentence of life imprisonment at hard labor. In addition, the local administration exerts pressure on the employees. The services offered to a candidate of the National Democratic Party during elections are funded by the state. Distribution of apartments, cotton for upholstery, cement for building, and other commodities are in fact a form of election forgery. We as a party, however, will continue to wage our battle to the end to alter the law and to ensure that the 1984 elections take place with a real guarantee to the citizens that they are really free elections, which express the Egyptian people's views.

[Nasif] What about the economic crisis currently strangling Egypt and how, in your view, can this be solved?

[Muhyi ad-Din] This is the second issue facing Egypt. There is actually a very big economic crisis facing Egypt; the basic cause of this crisis is that Husni Mubarak inherited from As-Sadat an economy which was suffering from a crisis due to a deficiency in the structure; that is, the production sectors in the Egyptian economy were backward and did not grow in As-Sadat's era. Only the foreign sectors grew in As-Sadat's era. This situation needs amendments and, in fact, radical and drastic measures as well as continued action to develop the production sectors in the Egyptian economy.

Given what has taken place in the 5-year plan, we find that several steps taken have advanced, but have been insufficient to effect the required change. The crisis will remain deep. In addition, there is a financial crisis currently facing the Egyptian Government due to the shortage in oil revenues and revenues from the Suez Canal, and less revenue from tourism and from remittances by Egyptians working abroad due to their decreased salaries as a result of the oil crisis and its drop in revenues. The foreign revenues of the Egyptian Government have fallen and, consequently, the economic and financial crisis has increased. We in the NPUG have made proposals for tackling the crisis. The basic idea in our proposals is to tackle the crisis through austerity measures. We have proposed this in the newspaper *AL-AHALI*. The austerity measures, however, must be agreed upon: Who will adopt austerity measures? Who will adopt more austerity measures and who will adopt fewer? We proposed austerity measures associated with a change in policies so that the Egyptian people will know that, after several years of sacrifices, they can live in an independent economy that can stand on its own feet, free from subservience. I, however, would not adopt austerity measures when those who plunder can continue to do so and those who possess can continue to possess, and when the poor become poorer. We submitted these solutions, but the government, of course, did not respond.

[Nasif] Why do you give such dimension to the economic crisis?

[Muhyi ad-Din] We raise the question of the economic crisis in Egypt as one of the factors that influence the possibility of Egypt leaving the U.S. sphere of dependency. For our food supplies and in our economy we depend on the outside word. The Egyptian economy is more and more dependent on the outside. The question here affects the national sovereignty and Egypt's role in the Nonaligned Movement.

[Nasif] What about the national cause: Is President Husni Mubarak's method different from that of As-Sadat?

[Muhyi ad-Din] This is the third issue which is in fact linked with the economic question and with the question of democracy. Here I say that Husni Mubarak's era is different from that of As-Sadat.

Under As-Sadat's era there was Camp David which altogether occupied As-Sadat. However, now Camp David is one of the elements which Mubarak takes into consideration before making any decision, but it is not the primary or last consideration. This is due to the fact that now the situation is different — at home, abroad, and at the Arab level. There is also Husni Mubarak's stance regarding the Palestine question, his stance on the question of the Ra's Banas base, where he insists that it be considered Egyptian. He did not decide as yet on the question of facilities, which he did not touch because he inherited this from As-Sadat's era.

However, in fact, the most dangerous thing in the present situation in Egypt is the continuation of the former system; namely, the totalitarianism of the ruling party and its domination over everything. In its view, democracy is that the party should control everything, own everything, and should turn the other parties — the opposition parties — into mere peripheral things. The result so far is that it has not become the real party of the majority, but it thinks it has. The result to which this situation leads is one of continuously seeking suppressive measures and new legislations. Hence the opposition will be unable to communicate its view to the people, or to embark on a mass move. This is a fact. The situation will remain abnormal as long as these circumstances remain unchanged.

[Nasif] In face of all these issues, are there differences within the NPUG?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The party is now facing four problems over which differences exist within the party. We are now making preparations to convene the general congress. We are raising in our internal magazine *DA'IRAT AL-HIWAR* four issues which we would like to settle:

The first issue: What is the principal course of struggle in Egypt? It may be the national cause. However, at the same time, what is the principal course which we will present to the masses? Naturally the national cause is linked with both the question of democracy and with the economic question. In 1981 we said that the principal course was the salvation of the national economy and Egypt's leaving the sphere of dependency. However, to enable us to make the Egyptian masses move with us, we should put forth to them the principal course. Is it the "democracy" which is our instrument as well as that of the masses in the struggle? Or is it the national cause? Or is it the economic question?

There are differences within the party over this point. Those engaged in political work in the governorates say that if we raise the question of democracy to the masses they will not move. In a certain governorate, for example, I collected signatures over the rice cultivation problem. There were 130,000 signatures. If party members attempted to collect signatures regarding one of the freedom restricting laws, inevitably, they will not succeed in collecting this figure. Here an important question manifests itself: The people's questions, their daily concerns, and their livelihood must be the principal courses of the national struggle which is linked with other issues. From a theoretical view — the national question — democracy is the principal question, but will this constitute an opening to the masses? This is the subject raised for discussion in *DA'IRAT AL-HIWAR*.

The second issue to be discussed is "the Scope of Front Alliance." We have called for a "national salvation" program and for an expanded national alliance to save Egypt from its economic crisis — from dependence; to find a genuine solution to the dilemma of democracy; to free Egyptian decisionmaking from the hegemony of the Camp David policy, and to restore Egypt to the Arab nation. We believe that Egypt is in deep trouble, and that such a program will elevate it out of this trouble. There is no party that can carry out this program on its own and rid Egypt of its trouble.

This means that we will enter into a coalition with other forces. This might, at the present stage, contradict our overall strategy as a Socialist party. What kind of coalition would this be? How far and how large? How will it affect our strategic aims? These are the matters to be discussed. There is a controversy inside the party on these matters. Some people are afraid that this might influence the party's path and its long struggle. The party is struggling to achieve its objectives. It makes alliances, at certain times, on certain matters. So, the party is discussing the issue of front alliances and its various scopes. This also includes combining various groups for a certain goal. This starts with the groups within the NPUG itself, because there are some of these groups still outside the party; these are: the Marxists, Nasirites, and those with nationalistic and religious trends. This issue is raised so we can widen the circle of party action and enlarge the national alliance. We do not derive our strength only from our party's strength, but also from the strength of the alliances we make in the face of national dangers. We have succeeded in this respect in 1982 when we isolated As-Sadat entirely.

The third issue facing us is the issue of the conflict within the Egyptian society and the objectives of this conflict. There is conflict in Egypt and inside the government. This conflict reveals itself by the presence of a "pro-As-Sadat" bloc inside and outside the government, inside and outside the NDP. There is a "pro-As-Sadat" party in Egypt and its members are those deadly opposed to any change in Egypt. This fact was brought to light upon publication of "The Autumn of Wrath" by Hasanayn Haykal. This [pro-As-Sadat] "party" reacted immediately through the mass media, the government, and the People's Assembly. There is a "current" which tries to defend the "accomplishments" of As-Sadat as if they were this current's own accomplishments; as if what happened in October 1981 was accidental and not a government crisis.

[Nasif] How would this happen within the government?

[Muhyi ad-Din] When Mubarak convened the parliamentary body, he said — according to the press — that those who object to what the opposition papers write would have to sue these papers, but he would not suspend them. This means simply that there are people inside the government who demanded the suspension of the opposition papers. Thus, there is a conflict inside the government. There are forces acting against the opposition parties and papers, against democracy, and against the rights of the opposition.

Another example: When the workers act against the public sector law, and the president then withdraws the law for it to be reconsidered and improved — this means that the government is not a consolidated entity. This conflict inside the government merely reflects the conflict inside the Egyptian society itself. There is a conflict between the two currents in Egypt. The people, on their side, want a real change. The Egyptian people are convinced that they cannot be ruled in the same way as before October 1981. The system has to be changed. Not marginal changes — much more — radical ones. We are not denying that the national movement is moving for the better. But this is not enough. Everything has got to move forward. Stagnation, or slow motion, means falling behind. We are always for an onward march.

The reactions we have mentioned are therefore just an expression of a conflict taking place inside the government and in Egyptian society. What are the aims of this conflict? Which side shall we support in this conflict and to what extent? Can we, through this support, push things toward true and quiet change or not? Some say that there is no change — no change in reality — and that what is happening is just marginal and has so far not affected the general direction. Some say that the required change should be concrete and basic, and therefore it can only be achieved through gradual, calm stages. All this has been raised for discussion in the NPUG Party.

The fourth issue being discussed inside the party is that after the Fes summit conference and the PLO's acceptance of the political solution — which in Article 7 implies recognition of Israel's existence — an issue has arisen. Our party's program declares that we accept whatever the PLO accepts. Some of the party members say: Suppose the PLO accepts a position that contradicts the NPUG Party's position, what will be our position in this case? The Palestinian issue is an issue that has pan-Arab dimensions, and therefore some say that the PLO has no right to decide alone on this issue or any Arab issue that has pan-Arab dimensions, such as the solution of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. This conflict has its pan-Arab dimensions, but who decides? In the last example, Iraq is supposed to decide. Any problem in Egypt that has pan-Arab dimensions should be decided by the Egyptian people. We decided to raise this issue in order to ultimately reach a solution that is acceptable to all and helps to promote the national and pan-Arab struggle, especially since our party regards itself as fully opposed to Zionism and imperialism, and since this opposition will not end until one of the two opposing sides is eliminated.

However, despite this strategic opposition, in one of the stages of the struggle we might accept an interim solution that would help the continuation of the struggle and not its termination. Some think, for example, that the mere establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital will serve the long-range struggle objectives — namely, the establishment of a democratic state over all Palestinian territory — even if the price of this is the recognition of Israel's existence. Some others say no; the mere recognition of Israel involves a tremendous concession that cannot be matched by anything else. We want all these views to be raised, because we do not like to impose our views on society.

There are other issues in this regard: What is taking place in Lebanon, for example, and the burden of arms. After the Lebanese war, Egypt was forced to procure arms. So, what is the use of "the peace treaty"? What is its use as long as we continue to procure arms in such huge quantities, especially when the political and military leaders still regard the Zionist danger as the primary one? Therefore, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty no longer provides security for Egypt, and Egypt is forced to procure weapons to protect itself. Thus, the purpose of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty has not been achieved.

There are also the problems for which the Egyptian people want solutions: Communications, health, education, and inflation. We want to wage the battles of the masses so that the line of the masses' party will prevail. In order to accomplish this, we should embark on a big party building process through educating and uniting the members, and through enlightenment about the general line with which we show the Egyptian people their problems. In order to solve these problems, we should build a strong party, adopt the problems and issues of these masses, and put these problems and their solutions to the people once again.

Part Two

NC152223 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Nov 83 p 11

[Part two of interview given in Prague by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping to *AS-SAFIR* correspondent Majdi Nasif; date not given]

[Text] [Nasif] Can each current in the NPUG — the Marxist, the Nasirite, the nationalist, and the religious (enlightened) — express its views on each one of these issues during the internal struggle which is taking place before the NPGU general conference and then during the conference?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The story of the various currents expressing themselves within the NPUG party is not like that. The strangest thing is to find that differences exist, but they are not differences between various currents. You will find several views within one current. There is no division according to currents. For example, with regard to specific issue of the four issues around which struggle is going on within the party, you cannot say that the Marxists, or the Nasirites, or the nationalists maintain any particular view. Differences exist inside each current on these issues, and indeed on every other issue. Differences exist inside each current in the NPUG Party. This is an expression of programs and methods of solution and of experience and does not reflect to a great extent the ideological differences, except in some issues, such as the Palestinian issue. But there are no differences in strategy and tactics. We have opened the door for internal struggle now in order to reduce the differences. But I honestly want to say that it is impossible to prevent differences in any party. Complete agreement is impossible, even in the ideological parties. But we want to reach the closest point of agreement. In my personal opinion, this is the ingenuity of the NPUG formula. Some think that the NPUG has not succeeded in fusing all these currents. When we first formed the NPUG Party, I personally say that no one thought of the question of fusing all the currents and ideas. Some may have thought that all these currents would eventually melt into one. I personally say that this has never crossed my mind. My only aim was: Can all these political forces and factions which have rallied under the banner of the NPUG Party with their different ideologies, face dangerous political situations that threaten national independence, democracy, and social change with united political positions, despite all the ideological differences that exist among them? I claim that this has been achieved in the past 7 years. No major political dispute has taken place among these currents during this period.

[Nasif] In other words, no fusion has taken place?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The subject of fusion has not been raised at all. Who will fuse with whom? Who will fuse more than whom? This question has not been on my mind. I want to remind you of the saying about the cup of water which is half empty or half full. You say that this cup is half empty; another will say that it is half full. I personally see the more positive aspect of the issue. These currents have been able — within the NPUG Party — in the past 7 years to adopt semi-united positions — they were not completely united — toward major fundamental issues which had faced the homeland. I consider this as the real victory. Note that this took place during the previous repressive conditions. Hence I say that the idea of the Grouping Party is an ingenious one which is taking place in Egypt's circumstances. Therefore, it is normal for differences to take place in the Grouping Party. I add at this point that these differences have existed since the establishment of the Grouping Party. We do not deny our differences, but we do not use a measuring scale in talking about them. We are a democratic party, and all its officials are elected. There is a possibility that one current could grow over the other. This is normal. There is a possibility that one current could gain better positions over the other. This is possible, and I see no unfairness in it. But what I am interested in, in the final analysis, are the united political positions. What is the value of the domination of one current if this domination does not reflect its position on the general political positions of the party. If there is a current which is said to be dominating the Grouping Party, this statement, from my point of view, is debatable, because what is the meaning of domination here? Who dominates what? Which is the dominating current, and in what decisionmaking or decision-preparing position is it? I personally think that this is absolutely incorrect.

[Nasif] Why?

[Muhyi ad-Din] Because the party positions are drawn up by the central secretariat and the general secretariat. There is not one subject that escapes scrutiny or where we do not attempt to achieve consensus.

In my opinion, this is the main criterion of what can be called the "party's style;" its political line. There can be some group that influences the election; a political current which outgrows another current in one area or party's organ; or a relatively active current. These are matters you cannot prevent. The question, in my view, is how this affects the "party's style" and its political line. If this did not happen and if everyone finds that there is no political disagreement, then these accusations are groundless. Still, I cannot prevent others from developing sensitivities and fears. This might happen. That one political current might outgrow other currents within the party is possible in certain geographical areas and under certain circumstances. It is possible. This topic was discussed in the party ever since 1980-81 because of the freedom-restricting laws and the crisis of political activity in Egypt.

I would like to state a fact: There is no party that can be described as a popular party. The reason is that the restrictions imposed on political activity and wide popular movement have restricted the chances of political activity and the perimeter of those interested in such activity. Under certain circumstances people tend to adopt a certain popular line. In 1977, when the masses adopted the line of the NPUG Party, the officials accused us of masterminding the incidents of 1977. This was wrong, as a matter of fact. Nevertheless, because the masses adopted the party's line on the economic issue and raised the party's slogans, the government imagined the NPUG was behind the scenes.

[Nasif] Suppose that a certain political current acquired majority in certain positions in the party, as a result of the prevailing conditions: the experience, the vitality, or any other circumstances. Does not this consequently lead to an ideological hegemony of this current?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The formula of the NPUG grouping means the grouping of currents. If one ideology or one political line dominates, the other powers will be smitten and will leave the party. I will give you two examples here:

The Iraq-Iran war: The larger part of NPUG's base, over 95 per cent, was against Iraq waging the war against Iran, regardless of Iranian provocations. The majority was against this war, against the Iraqi Army stepping into Iranian territories and fighting there. Since its beginning, the Iranian revolution abolished recognition of Israel, it placed the PLO where the Israeli diplomatic mission was, it hoisted the banners of the PLO and Palestine, and expelled the United States. Most party members resented the Iraq-Iran war; the main disposition was against it. However, when we convened to issue a statement on this war, we had in mind that we are not a unified party; we are a grouping of various currents of various political persuasions and our political statement should be balanced. In effect, when the political statement came out it was balanced. The statement reflected the opinions of the massive party base and the NPUG's formula. This is why the statement did not please Iraq or Iran. Within the party it did not please the Marxists or the nationalists. In my opinion, this makes sense.

The second example is Afghanistan. The party as a whole was against the principle of intervention — the Soviet intervention. A party current said we must be against any kind of interventions, and in order to be logical we must condemn the Soviet Union. Another current said we must not condemn the Soviet Union, because the legitimate Afghan Government had requested the intervention, and this, according to this current, is different from an external invasion.

Thus, the NPUG statement was issued. The statement stipulated that we reject the Soviet justification for intervention, and demanded that Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan. The statement condemned the Pakistani military operations that encouraged the uprising. The Pakistani Government's justifications — be they Islamic or other justifications — are unacceptable because the Afghan Government and people are Muslims. The statement was therefore evenhanded. A current wanted to condemn the Soviet Union, and another current was against this. A current asked why we have to reject this when the Afghan Government, a UN member, had asked for the Soviet intervention against an external aggression.

[Nasif] What do you think of those who say that the Marxists are dominating the NPUG?

[Muhyi ad-Din] This is not true. This is strikingly evident in the party's policies and behavior. First, we are not Marxists, and this is clear in our programs and in the objectives for which we are struggling. It is unreasonable for a party to struggle for the sake of certain objectives and at the same time have other objectives. It is unreasonable for a party to have a dual personality. The objectives with which the party must convince the masses must be genuine objectives, otherwise the masses will not believe the party.

Second, we do not consider Marxism a stigma, because it is a humanistic ideology. There are Marxists in every single leftist party in the world. There is always the influence of Marxism to a certain degree in every Marxist current. [as published] Nevertheless, Marxism is not a stigma. We are not trying to defend ourselves against this accusation. We simply do not consider it an accusation, but we are stating a fact. If we were a Marxist party we would have declared it openly and would have advocated Marxism, because it is not a stigma. Marxism is being pursued by 40 percent of the world's people. Marxism is achieving accomplishments whether the people like it or not. There were backward people who became advanced, and there were people who headed for the moon.

But if by Marxism they mean heresy and atheism, then we reject it, because we are a party that abides by the Constitution and by Islamic law and principles. We abide by the spiritual values. There is a religious current in the NPUG Party.

Actually, we are advocating the 23 July [1952] revolution program. This program calls for restoring national independence and independent development. The party's strategic program aims at achieving socialism in Egypt, but there is still a long way before we achieve this program. I would like to add something here. Hardly any party in the world is without blemishes. But can you imagine Egypt without our party during the past 7 years, which were replete with grave incidents? Can you imagine Egypt without our party during the Jerusalem visit? Our party was the only one that opposed this visit. Can you imagine Egypt without a single official and legitimate voice opposing the visit? Can you imagine what Egypt's image would have been? The people are belittling the NPUG's historic accomplishment by their exaggerated talk about the internal struggle within the party. It is a struggle that can occur within any party in the world; in the French Socialist Party, for example.

The party can only be assessed by its course, struggle, and objectives. The party tries to rally the people behind it and to gain the respect of the people with its objectives. This is what delineates the party's course and policy. The NPUG Party is defending and is struggling for the interests of certain social groups. These groups were founded by the 23 July 1952 revolution.

These factions consist of the workers, public sector officials, agrarian reform peasants, and the educated sons of the workers and peasants who benefited from the free education provided to them by the July revolution. We express and defend the interests loves Egypt and struggles for the improvement of its conditions. It rejects the administration's method of rule and the domination of the parasitic factions. Its experience is that of the masses which believed that As-Sadat would bring peace and prosperity. They are the same masses which turned against As-Sadat when they saw that he did not bring peace or prosperity to them. After the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the people were convinced — through experience — by the masses' point of view. Political leaderships, however, continue to have a more farsighted view.

[Nasif] If we suppose that one of the grouping's currents constitutes a small minority in comparison with the other currents, will it be able to express its opinion? Could it be guaranteed that the other currents inside the grouping will not overcome it?

[Muhyi ad-Din] We do not educate the grouping's members ideologically. We educate them politically. We teach them the party's program, its aims, stands, and political line. The grouping has formed over the past 7 years, the age of the grouping, its own political ideology stemming from its stand on the issues it confronts. It has now its own course for dealing with these issues. This has united the people and narrowed the ideological differences between the currents and members. All of us adopt an ideology hostile to imperialism and Zionism. All of us are against capitalism, particularly its parasitic factions. All of us support independent development and the building of an independent national economy serving our country and cause. All of us support social justice and the elimination of class distinction.

There are, however, differences on the visualization of the society in the distant future. Despite this, experience has established that our stands coincide when facing practical problems and diverge when hypothetical issues are raised. We always try to approach the questions on which we agree and leave aside the issues on which we differ. We do not make a decision on any question that would cause disagreement but postpone tackling it until it ripens.

[Nasif] For example?

[Muhyi ad-Din] Such as the pan-Arab dimension of the Palestinian issue. After the Fes summit resolutions and the PLO's position, we postponed discussion on the issue because we found out that the issue has not ripened yet. We said this before the meeting of our conference. Many positions will emerge and decisions will be made regarding the PLO, Syria, and the Lebanese agreement. The issue will then ripen, and the party can decide its position in a more mature manner.

Hence we have raised these issues for debate within the party. We have asked the members who live among the masses to reflect upon what the masses want. We want to change the opposition from political opposition to popular opposition that embraces the daily problems of the masses. This gives the party strength.

[Nasif] What must the government do regarding opposition parties?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The state apparatus should be independent from the government party or any party. We live in a multiparty state, and the state apparatus is supposed to be independent. In France, Francois Mitterrand was unable to dismiss the deputy director of television just because he did not want him. There was much anxiety in France because he just tried to dismiss him. When one watches French television, he will see that some support the government and some are against it. This is democracy. What is required here is an independent information apparatus, an independent elections apparatus, and an independent state apparatus. Regrettably, however, in Egypt, when the president is from a certain party, the whole state apparatus will be with that party. Changing this is actually the way to resolve Egypt's problems.

AL-AKHBAR on Shamir's 'Blackmailing Tactics'

NC161644 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 16 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Shamir and Peace With Egypt," *AL-AKHBAR says: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir* is known to the world for his lack of propriety and for his indulgence in satisfying his wish of securing military benefits for Israel. This man does not know there are limits for dealing or cooperating with states. He resorts to what political commentators call blackmailing tactics, such as when he recently warned the FRG against military cooperation with Egypt. Shamir declared that his government will oppose any military cooperation between Cairo and Bonn. In his statement, which was denounced by political quarters, Shamir not only said that he opposes the sale of German tanks to Saudi Arabia, but that he also does not approve of any military cooperation between the FRG and any Arab state, including Egypt. In his press statement, Shamir stressed Israel is determined to take advantage of the guilt complex felt by the Germans and to contain their activity on the international scene.

AL-AKHBAR explains that this style is totally unacceptable. The least that can said is that it is interference in other states' internal affairs. It is a kind of blackmail, and we don't believe anyone can accept this blackmail, whatever its form.

Communique Issued on 15-16 Nov War Operations

JN161810 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,281 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With further courage, sacrifice, and audacity, our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their successful activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the clique of grudge and aggression ruling in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened their artillery fire on the enemy units and concentrations opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, hitting them directly and effectively and inflicting losses in men and equipment. The enemy sustained four killed and several others wounded elsewhere in the same sector.

2. Our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy troops opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing four and wounding others.

3. One of our capable combat patrols managed to capture one of the enemy personnel in the area opposite one of our forward units' positions east of Basra. He was evacuated to the rear.

4. Today the wicked Khomeyniite regime shelled Mandali and Khanaqin and their environs with artillery. The savage enemy shelling demolished three houses in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 November 1983

Na'im Haddad Favors Egypt's Return to Arab League

NC171207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — Na'im Haddad, Iraqi national council speaker and member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command, has said that his country is seriously and honorably seeking to unify the stands of the genuine sons of the Arab nation through the return of Egypt to the Arab fold.

In a statement to *AL-AHRAM's* correspondent in Baghdad appearing in its 17 November issue, Haddad said: We hope Egypt's exclusion from the Arab League will not continue for long. Egypt is dear to us, especially since President Husni Mubarak assumed power. Egypt and Iraq had trade relations before Mubarak assumed power and these relations are now good. He said: We, and of course President Saddam Husayn, have great confidence in President Husni Mubarak.

In reply to a question about the prospects for Egyptian-Iraq relations, Haddad said: Egypt is dear to every Iraqi and we in Iraq believe that excluding Egypt from the Arab nation is a great loss. He further said: We believe that confidence is the basis for forming relations and that consideration of the Arab nation's interests must outweigh any other consideration. For this reason, we believe that Egypt's return will be a great victory for the Arab world.

Haddad said: When President Husni Mubarak assumed power, we expected good omens. It was our right to expect good omens because the signs for this were very clear, particularly as the domestic front became more unified and the democratic march was strengthened. We also recognize the conditions that Egypt is experiencing and maintain that the significance of withdrawing the Egyptian ambassador from Israel is very clear.

Haddad said that President Mubarak's interest in Arab developments and his attempts to support these developments in a positive way — even though Egypt is outside the Arab League — as well his adoption of a nonaligned line in international relations are indications of where Egypt is heading. Every honest Arab must welcome these initiatives. We in Iraq, he said, are seeking earnestly and honorably to unify the stand of the real sons of the Arab nation through the return of Egypt.

Haddad said: Regarding the Iranian aggression, we appreciate the pan-Arab stand by President Husni Mubarak, particularly the (?arms) and political support he is giving to Iraq. He has reasserted that his country will continue to firmly support peace and a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Iranian problem. He has warned Iran against continued escalation of the war and threats, saying that an escalation of the war may prompt intervention by the big powers because these countries have their own interest and strategy, particularly if Iran blocks the Hormuz Strait. In such a case, everyone whose interests are endangered would have the right to act against such a step. For our part, Haddad added, we believe that it is our right to ensure free navigation in the gulf. This stand was outlined in our response to and approval of the Security Council's latest resolution.

On Iraq's use of the Super Etendard aircraft which Iraq obtained from France, he said: We purchased arms to use them, but we will use them judiciously, as we are eager to safeguard our interests and the interests of the Iranian peoples.

On the postponement of the proposed Arab Summit conference in Riyadh, Haddad said the current Arab situation and increased Arab differences caused this postponement. He pointed out that the Syrian and Libyan regimes are continuing to support the Iranian aggression against Iraq. They are also continuing to work against Lebanon's unity and against the Palestinian revolution. This will preclude any effective and comprehensive Arab solidarity at an Arab summit. He said the postponement of the summit conference will give us the opportunity to tackle this situation and to pave the way for convening the conference.

Haddad stressed that everyone in the Arab homeland must seek Arab solidarity and end this state of fragmentation and conflict in our homeland by ceasing support for the Iranian aggression, ceasing interference in PLO affairs, and acting seriously and honorably to return Egypt to the Arab fold. He added: We all know the weight of Arab Egypt in the Arab struggle and we believe that now is the time to bring Egypt back to the Arab League so that it can occupy its important place in Arab ranks.

Committee on Trade With Qatar Ends Session

JN161230 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA) — The second session of the joint Iraqi-Qatari committee on economic and trade cooperation ended here last night.

During the meetings, the Qatari and Iraqi sides discussed trade between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting economic and trade relations between them. The two sides agreed to exempt new consumer goods produced in the two countries in view of the improvement in the quality of these products. [sentence as received]. The two sides also stressed the need to cooperate in joint industrial ventures and in the training and exchaning of cadres in the industrial sphere.

The two sides also agreed to hold the next session in the Qatari capital.

The session was led on the Iraqi side by the director general of the Trade Ministry's Arab Relations Department while the Qatari side was led by the under secretary of the Qatari Ministry of Industry and Agriculture.

Friendship Society President Meets USSR Official

JN162026 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA) — Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, president of the Iraqi-USSR Friendship Society, has met with Gatibkov, deputy chairman of the KaSSR Council of Ministers, [name and title as received] and his delegation. During the meeting, the friendly relations between Iraq and the USSR and the means of promoting them in favor of the two friendly peoples were discussed.

Dr Najih and Gatibkov pointed out that the treaty of friendship that was concluded between the two countries in 1972 has opened new opportunities for strengthening and developing cooperation between them in various fields. It is worth noting that celebrations were held yesterday on the occasion of Iraqi-USSR friendship day.

Travellers to Syria Must Obtain Exit Permits

JN171239 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1208 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — Due to security considerations the interior minister has issued instructions concerning the travel of Jordanian citizens to Syria. These instructions stipulate that Jordanians cannot leave the country for Syria from either the border posts or from the airports unless they obtain exit permits allowing them to leave. This will be effective Saturday, 19 November 1983.

Competent security departments in the capital and at the centers of governorates and subdistricts will issue the necessary permits in accordance with the special arrangements. The security departments will issue special permits allowing for several journeys for some businessmen and tradesmen for whom these journeys are necessary.

Syria's Conspiratorial Role in Lebanon Criticized

Commentary on Dissidents

JN160843 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1616 GMT 15 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Many of the masks of the dissident movement inside Fatah have fallen. The Arab citizen has stopped wondering, as he used to, why Palestinian bullets are fired at Palestinians and why some Arabs are leading the Palestinians to massacres? The dissident movement inside Fatah is not a corrective movement but is meant to fragment Fatah and the PLO and to wipe out the legitimate leadership in preparation for placing the independent Palestinian decisionmaking into the same Arab hand in which Lebanon's card was previously placed as an inevitable result of 8 years of massacres.

Perhaps, what the dissidents have tried to hide, Damascus has exposed and emphasized in an unprecedented manner. Damascus did not stand behind the dissidents in order to save the PLO from its legitimate leadership, but was aiming at something else; namely, it has used the dissidents as a glove in its hand in order to seize the Palestinian card in full and to compulsorily represent the Palestinian people within a blatant attempt to expand the area of its domination in the Middle East. Even if we assume for the sake of argument that Damascus can expand its field of hegemony by usurping the Palestinian card which it took by force from the children, women, and old people in the Palestinian camps in north Lebanon, will it be able to return one bit of Palestinian soil to the Palestinian people?

Among the axiomatic matters which need no argument or discussion is that the party cannot restore what either it or others have lost. It is better for Damascus to concentrate its efforts on restoring the occupied Syrian soil instead of expanding the scope of chaos, loss, and bloodbaths outside the Syrian borders and at the expense of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. If the Palestinian card, which the Syrian regime is trying to steal, falls within the game of intensifying the expansionist Syrian ambitions, the dissidents' behavior in north Lebanon is also part of the price which the dissidents are paying in return for their temporary stay in the Syrian hotel. If the Syrian regime had been nationally loyal, rather than being loyal to its pan-Arab issues, it would at least have raised the problem of the occupation of the Golan during the fighting in Lebanon which has escalated since 1976.

From this premise, it is easier for the Arab citizen to understand the dimensions of what is currently taking place in the region and why the insolvable Lebanese problem has remained insolvable and why the PLO was dragged to the bottleneck. In other words, the Arab citizen is wondering whether or not the Syrian regime has been involved in a big conspiracy aimed at partitioning the region between itself and Israel. Indications of this conspiracy are plentiful. People are also wondering whether the fragmentation and weakening of the Arab states are among the requirements of this involvement in preparation for devouring or dividing them with Israel.

There are numerous indications which support the fears of the Arab citizen, and we are sure that Damascus will gain no more from its present stand toward the pressing issues of the region that what it had gained in Lebanon and in the Palestinian camps.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on Syrian Role

JN170917 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "'Arafat's Destiny Is Not the Problem," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: As we said yesterday, the developments in northern Lebanon are subject to Syrian decisionmaking. The decision to split Fatah and to use one of its wings as a spearhead against the other wing is a Syrian decision which is linked to the Syrian policy's stage of regional containment.

The first stage is the containment of the Lebanese decisionmaking and the control of the Lebanese destiny. The second stage is the control of the Palestinian decisionmaking; and finally the control of Arab decisionmaking which is a prerequisite of Syrian hegemomy in the arena of confrontation.

The objectives of the Syrian attack against 'Arafat, which is in its final stages after storming the Al-Baddawi refugee camp and striking at 'Arafat in Tripoli, cannot be hidden behind blaming 'Arafat for resuming the fighting. The additional Syrian and Libyan forces which moved to the Al-Baddawi and Tripoli areas expose the objectives of the attack and confirm the clear decision to obstruct any Arab or non-Arab mediation to save the independence PLO represented by 'Arafat and his besieged wing.

It was obvious that Syrian acceptance of the Gulf countries' mediation was a mere gesture following the campaign that was launched against Syrian involvement and interference in the organization's internal affairs. Hence, the resumption of the battles in Tripoli was fierce and decisive to put an end to 'Arafat's resistance and military presence in northern Lebanon.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: The problem is not whether 'Arafat stays or leaves Tripoli. Neither is it a question of who is responsible for the massacres carried out against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. The dangerous problem is what will be left of the PLO whose independence and free decisionmaking were granted by the Arabs in Rabat in 1974 if this organization, through a military coup, becomes an organ of the Syrian regime? What stand will the people of the occupied West Bank and Gaza adopt toward the Syrian-backed coup against the PLO's legitimacy? What will be left of the Rabat resoltuion if the Arabs do not support the text of the 1974 resolution?

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: There is no doubt that this outcome will create new situations in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. The Palestinian action is a free and unanimous expression of Palestinian representation of the Palestinian people's will. What will be left of this representation if the substitute organization, sought by Damascus, becomes a new As-Sa'iqah under Syrian security organs and involves itself in terrorist actions in the Arab arena? While all this is going on what will happen to the interests of the occupied homeland — the West Bank and Gaza? Where is the freedom of the Palestinians in choosing their militant path? Where is the Arab responsibility which granted independent decisionmaking to the PLO, and today is silent over the decision to annul and replace its independence? Where is the role of the various Palestinian institutions in deciding whether there is a Palestinian interest in what is happening in the Palestinian arena?

We have always asked the world to respect the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and right to choose their path freely. How can we justify our demand while we see Arab parties depriving the Palestinians of this right and submitting even those who represent the Palestinians to military liquidation and armed pressure?

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The problem is not whether or not 'Arafat will be terminated. The problem is whether or not the independent Palestinian decisionmaking will be terminated and the developments and repercussions of this sitaution on the Palestinian action. The coming days will answer these questions.

AR-RA'Y on Stand Toward Palestinian Land

JN161222 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "History's Unforgiving Judgement," *AR-RA'Y* says: In its confrontation of the Israeli settlement program, Jordan has emphasized an important and a basic fact; namely that the land is the crux of the Palestinian question and that any attempt to bypass this fact, intentionally or out of ignorance, would serve the Israeli settlement policy and provide it with the time factor which forms the basis of their settlement program. Jordan has always believed that if the Israeli settlement program is successful there will be nothing left to discuss in the search for a just settlement nor will there be anything left around which the world public opinion can be mobilized.

When the dialogue between Jordan and the PLO began, there was a semi-agreement on what was required and what could be done during this stage to work for saving what can be saved. For the sake of this noble objective, we must overcome all obstacles and be careful not to regard the land, persons, or institutions on an equal basis, because without the land, everything else will be like rowing against the current or even a rowing in another sea.

AR-RA'Y continues: Even after the suspension of the dialogue, Jordan continued with its stand and remained concerned about the Palestinian legitimacy and the independent Palestinian decisionmaking away from pressures or attempts at trusteeship and containment. In light of the escalation of the settlement policy which is aimed at confiscating the land, and the escalation of the repressive measures and terrorism against the Palestinian citizen under occupation, the Palestinian side has realized the soundness of the Jordanian stand and its concern for the land first and foremost. Yasir 'Arafat's statements at the press conference in Tripoli confirm this fact. In fact, these statements consider the dissension within the Fatah movement and the Syrian political, military, informational, and material support for this dissention to be the results of the Jordanian-PLO agreement on the objective of this stage which is to halt the settlement and save what can be saved of the occupied territory.

AR-RA'Y concludes: What we would like to confirm is that policial action is not an alternative for liberating the land but in light of the current Arab and international circumstances, allowing the Zionist enemy to continue its settlement program and devour the territory without any act of liberation which would rise to the level of the resounding slogans, is a denounced action, whose perpetrators will receive history's harsh sentence equal to the size of the evil intentions which stand behind this denounced action.

Pakistani Chief of Staff Departs 16 November

JN161929 Amman Television Service Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] General Sawar Khan, chief of staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces, left Amman this afternoon after a visit of several days to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; and Ash-Sharif Zayid ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. He also visited a number of the Armed Forces' military positions, units, and training institutions as well as some of the Kingdom's tourist and historic sites.

The Pakistani chief of staff was seen of by Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Talib, the Pakistani ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior Armed Forces officers.

Diplomatic Sources on Khaddam Talks in Beirut

NC170952 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The security situation in the mountain, in the north, and in Al-Biqa', and the deteriorating situation in the south were yesterday the topics of talks between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam during his first visit to Beirut since the Israeli incursion of Lebanon in June 1982. The visit took place 24 hours before its scheduled time. The visit, which lasted about 5 hours, was described by well-informed diplomatic sources as having turned a new leaf in Lebanese-Syrian relations. The sources believe that the talks which Minister Khaddam had with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil reaffirmed the need for understanding between the two countries over basic matters that have no alternatives.

The sources have said that the main purpose of the visit had been to affirm that Syria welcomes President al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus at any time. Minister Khaddam said his coming to B'abda yesterday was to confirm this matter. It is known that the postponement of Al-Jumayyil's visit was due to the surgery carried out on President Hafiz al-Asad. Khaddam stressed that Syria is eager to receive the Lebanese president when President al-Asad has left the hosptial and has fully recovered. This is not expected before the end of this month. Minister Khaddam emphasized that the Lebanese president will be the first president to be received by President al-Asad after he recovers, particularly as the Syrian president wants to meet with President al-Jumayyil before, and after, the Lebanese president visits the United States, so that there may be complete coordination between the two states on basic matters.

According to diplomatic sources, Minister Khaddam affirmed that the Syrian president wishes that the atmosphere be calm when the president begins his tour. Therefore, Syria will use all its potential to make the cease-fire effective. The Syrian minister also said that the talks between Presidents al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad will include all current questions, and that Syria is open to the necessity of easing President al-Jumayyil's mission in respect of these subjects. He said that Damascus hopes that the atmosphere will have improved so that the second round of the National Dialogue Conference can be held in Lebanon in agreement with all the parties. During his talks with President al-Jumayyil, Khaddam said that his country supports Lebanon's integrity and its regime, and that it believes that a strong government in Lebanon will inevitably be in the interest of Syria which is making efforts to support the regime in restoring the state's control over all areas. He noted that his country is prepared to coordinate with Lebanon on all outstanding matters.

Minister Khaddam considered that the political reform is a purely Lebanese question and that what concerns Syria is that the Lebanese parties should reach an understanding in a positive atmosphere, and that this matter is up to the Lebanese. Syria is prepared to contribute to provide the appropriate atmospheres.

Discussing the Lebanese-Israeli accord question, Minister Khaddam said that his country is interested in remedying the dilemma of this accord and in discussing with Lebanon an exemplary way of emerging from this dilemma, particularly as Syria has ideas, proposals, and alternatives which Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad will discuss at their expected meeting.

Minister Khaddam also said that his country views with satisfaction the visit which President al-Jumayyil proposes to make to Saudi Arabia by the end of this week, and that Syria believes that the outcome of this visit will be useful. He emphasized that the door is open between the regime in Damascus and the regime in Lebanon for a new leaf in the relations between the two countries.

The diplomatic sources confirmed that a military delegation will leave today, Thursday, for Damascus to discuss with Minister Khaddam and a group of officers the question of consolidating the cease-fire. The Lebanese military delegation will also meet with representatives of the Lebanese parties present in Damascus to discuss the same subject.

The same sources indicate that the political contacts will continue to coordinate the stances between the two countries and to pave the way for the Lebanese-Syrian summit.

Minister Khaddam had affirmed, after his first round of talks with President al-Jumayyil, that his country is prepared to discuss and agree with the Lebanese Government on all that serves Lebanon, its independence, integrity, and sovereignty.

Khaddam Talks Appraised

NC171257 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Today's meetings and contacts focused on appraising the results of Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam's visit, on speeding up the implementation of matters agreed upon to consolidate the cease-fire in Lebanon, and on resuming the diplomatic efforts to cancel the Israeli measures that subject the Lebanese citizens to a visa system for travel within their territory.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil held a working meeting today with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to appraise these developments prior to the Cabinet's weekly session, which was postponed until today because of the Syrian foreign minister's visit to Beirut yesterday.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan appraised the talks held with Khaddam and the diplomatic efforts on the south at a meeting this morning with Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Dr Elie Salim.

Foreign Minister Salim last night summoned U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew, and asked that his government bring pressure on Israel to stop the Israeli measures on citizens travelling from or to the south of having to obtain special permits. Minister Salim warned of the seriousness of these measures and the future implications for Lebanese sovereignty.

Minister Salim has summoned the ambassadors of the states contributing to the Multinational Force and the Vatican ambassador to meet with him tomorrow for consultations concerning various political developments and so that he can brief them on the outcome of the talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam.

Military Delegation To Go to Damascus 17 Nov

NC162305 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2245 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Informed sources said that a high-level Lebanese military delegation will go to the Syrian capital today [17 November] to discuss the outstanding military issues between Lebanon and Syria.

All Members Attend Security Meeting 16 Nov

NC162218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The Security Arrangements Committee held a lengthy meeting today in the presence of all its members. The committee had not met for the past 4 days — 2 days because of the weekend and 2 days because the representatives of the Lebanese Front and the National Salvation Front did not attend. For 4 hours, the conferees reviewed the incidents that took place during that period and the extensive cease-fire violations, which led to a deterioration of the security situation. They also discussed the committee's ineffectiveness if it does not meet.

Foreign Ministry Discusses Cyprus Developments

NC171014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The situation in Cyprus in the wake of the Turkish Cypriots' declaration of the Turkish Cypriot Republic was today the subject of diplomatic attention at the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry. While Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim had a meeting with the Greek ambassador in Beirut, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad at-Turk received the Turkish ambassador. It was learned that the discussions focused on the situation in Cyprus at both meetings.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan on Current Issues

NC161923 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 14-20 Nov 83 pp 38-44

[Interview with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan by *MONDAY MORNING* correspondent Muna as-Sa'id— date and place not given]

[Text] Question: What is your evaluation of what has been accomplished so far in Geneva? Have we finished with the "national reconciliation" stage and moved into the "national dialogue" stage?

Answer: The convening of the Geneva conference with the participation of all the parties involved in the conflict on the Lebanese scene constituted, in itself, a significant leap forward in the direction of national reconciliation. In fact, the prevailing atmosphere and the proceedings of the conference — including the (private) meetings, encounters and reconciliations — represent an important practical extension of the efforts designed to achieve this national reconciliation. All this, in my judgement, constitutes an important, positive achievement, in addition, naturally, to the congruence on understanding the position of the government on the agreement with Israel and on the practical, positive steps which pave the way for a comprehensive, responsible approach to this basic issue which would spare this disaster-stricken nation any further setbacks and tragedies.

The committees set up by the conferees are currently studying and discussing questions related to national and political reforms. In my opinion, this is an integral aspect of the national dialogue stage which has actually started. The discussions on the summit level have been suspended for a short period, after which meetings will be reconvened and efforts exerted which, we hope, will ultimately lead to the achievement of national accord.

Reference must be made, at the same time, to challenges and hazards which still exist, especially in view of the fact that Lebanon was, and still is, the scene of non-Lebanese struggles that continue to leave their mark on the efforts exerted which, we hope, will ultimately lead to the achievement of national accord.

Reference must be made, at the same time, to challenges and hazards which still exist, especially in view of the fact that Lebanon was, and still is, the scene of non-Lebanese struggles that continue to leave their mark on the efforts exerted to rescue and deliver Lebanon and achieve entente.

In addition to these, there have been a number of recent developments, some of them within the framework of existing international tensions, which have injected new challenges onto the scene.

Question: How do you explain the objections raised by some over the definition of the Arab identity of Lebanon, and the objections of others over the discussion of the fate of the May 17 agreement between Lebanon and Israel?

Answer: None of the participants objected to the Arab identity of Lebanon. The ambiguities that arose at the time ended with a unanimous endorsement of the Arab identity of Lebanon, and only appeared after digression into some details and side issues. There was, however, unanimous agreement on the substance and the intrinsic essence of this issue.

The debate on the fate of the May 17 agreement between Lebanon and Israel, as can be detected from the resolution adopted by the conference on this issue, involved a responsible and patriotic approach that took into consideration all the challenges, contradictions and hazards posed by a detailed discussion of this subject. The Lebanese position in this connection is clear. As a result of the changes in the circumstances, and the changes in the Israeli position, and as a result of the dramatic, bloody events of the mountains, for which Israel is responsible, Lebanon has refrained from ratifying the agreement. The agreement, of course, is not an end in itself, but a means to enable Lebanon to liberate its territory and to avoid the continual series of disasters. Once it becomes possible to achieve this within the framework of any available means, then the issue of the agreement will revert to its rightful dimension within the context of the means by which the nation could be liberated.

Question: In the light of the results of the Geneva conference, do you expect the formation of a national unity government?

Answer: The formation of a national unity government in the wake of the results achieved at the Geneva conference is not only natural but imperative and inevitable. The existing status of the government, based on the fact that I have placed the resignation of the government at the disposal of the president of the republic, is extraordinary and cannot continue indefinitely. Recent and expected developments require a new government, with renewed orientations, capabilities and foundations and which is compatible with the nature of developments and the extent to which they are basic and positive. In fact, I would say that a change in government is inevitable, irrespective of whether the results of the Geneva conference are positive (as we hope they will be) or negative (God forbid).

As for my candidate as next prime minister, I must point out that so far I am in a position of responsibility, and, as such, I cannot go into such details. This issue, anyway, depends on the course and the direction of future developments.

Question: What do you expect will happen in view of the explosive security situation? Will Tripoli suffer the same fate as West Beirut? Will the southern suburbs pay the price for the attacks on the Multinational Force (MNF) on October 23? Will the cease-fire hold in the mountains? Will Israel succeed in detaching south Lebanon from the rest of the country?

Answer: Your question involves a number of destiny problems that are troubling all Lebanese — public and officials alike — rather than simple expectations. In fact, you have referred to future assumptions that might occur (partially or fully) or which might not occur, and to assumptions that are mostly determined and manipulated by non-Lebanese conditions.

The efforts of the administration these days are focussed on ways of sparing the country additional tragedies and disasters, be they in Tripoli, the southern suburbs, the mountains, the south or in any other part of the country where innocent blood is being shed without any justification whatever that could be acceptable to the responsible national conscience. All (these efforts) do not prevent me from referring to the danger of the existing situation and to the many possibilities of explosion which exist because of various reasons, some of which have nothing whatsoever to do with Lebanon and the Lebanese. Consequently, there is a dire need for all to be more alert, to rally around the authorities, and support the efforts designed to promote the salvation and deliverance of the country.

Question: What would the position of Lebanon be towards a joint American-Israeli operation against Syria, in view of the general mobilization in Israel and Syria and the bolstering of American naval and air power off the Lebanese coast?

Answer: We reject any moves against sisterly Syria from any party, and our position in such a situation would be one of solidarity with Syria to repel any aggression.

Lebanon is anxious to resolve any pending issues with Syria through political dialogue, such as was launched in Geneva. In fact, Lebanon insists on this approach, and has no alternative in seeking to realize Lebanese demands. Consequently, military confrontation with Syria is rejected outright by Lebanon in any fashion or form. If the possibility of such a confrontation exists, that only strengthens our determination to achieve Lebanese-Lebanese reconciliation and Lebanese-Syrian reconciliation, in order to foil any attempt, especially by those who are classified as enemies, to exploit the situation in a bid to realize hostile schemes at the expense of Lebanese and Syrian interests alike.

Question: Do you support the "Islamic fundamentals" put forward by former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam at the Geneva conference?

Answer: I previously announced my full support for these principles as soon as they were announced at a conclave of distinguished spiritual and political leaders at Dar al-Lfta' [mufti's office].

I regard these principles as very positive elements which were announced at a time when the country was badly in need of such genuine and responsible national stands. The widespread national acclaim accorded these "fundamentals" is a clear indication of the desire of the Lebanese to draw closer, to bridge the gaps and to rescue the nation.

Question: Why has the government so far failed to restore electric power supplies, and what are the steps to be taken in the foreseeable future to lift the curfew still imposed on the capital and particularly on some areas, and to ease the choking traffic crisis which grips Beirut?

Answer: The electricity situation is rapidly returning to normal despite the very serious security problems that still confront workers and officials of this sector.

The curfew was a necessity imposed by security considerations and is designed to protect the public from dangers. We will not retain this measure one hour after we become convinced that we can do away with it and that there will be no harmful security setbacks as a result of the lifting of the curfew.

Steps are being taken to ease the traffic situation in the capital, following the confusion created by the introduction of security measures under well-known circumstances. We are trying to balance the urgent needs of security with the need to facilitate the movement of traffic as much as possible. A series of meetings is under way to work out solutions to this problem and to mitigate the traffic crisis as much as possible.

In view of my awareness of the daily interests of the public, and in a bid to facilitate traffic, I gave instructions for the opening of the closed traffic lanes on the street that passes in front of the television station. Traffic has been restored on one lane, and will be restored on both lanes once all security measures are taken. Today a meeting is being held to discuss traffic measures for the whole city, while taking into consideration the security requirements which must be given due attention in view of the extraordinary methods resorted to by elements seeking to detonate the situation.

Question: Were the attacks on the positions of the American Marines and the French forces and on the Israeli headquarters in Tyre all masterminded by the same people?

Answer: Statements were issued after these operations, claiming responsibility for them. The same party claimed responsibility for all three incidents.

That, however, does not rule out other possibilities, and there is more than one way to explain the background of what took place. Anyway, this is a delicate security issue that is now the subject of intensive investigation on several levels.

Question: Do you still hope that Washington will succeed in securing the withdrawal of Palestinian, Israeli and Syrian forces from all Lebanese territory?

Answer: In the case of the Israeli withdrawal, we are confident that Washington, once it decides and determines, can secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Once that is accomplished, the definite and logical result will be the withdrawal of all other forces from Lebanon.

We are still counting on the American ability and effort. And despite the repeated setbacks which we have suffered because of this course, the American option is still the only option available to us. We will continue to exert efforts to secure other options, as a precautionary measure, depending on how we are helped by conditions, developments and Arab and international positions.

Question: Is Beirut satisfied with the decision to postpone the Arab summit meeting scheduled to be held in Riyadh? What would Lebanon request from the summit meeting if and when it is held?

Answer: Even though we welcome any Arab meeting, on any level, especially at the summit level, and even though we welcome every Arab effort to help solve Arab problems, especially the Lebanese problem, we have nearly lost all hope of any positive results emerging from meetings held in this framework and with this approach. Recent history and repeated resolutions issued by Arab summit meetings, which have remained ink on paper, clearly illustrate why our faith in this approach is weak.

Consequently, the decision to postpone this conference does not really make any difference to us. If an Arab summit meeting is convened in the future, I naturally, advocate that we attend. I also advocate, however, that Lebanon refrain from submitting any petition or request related to Lebanese affairs. Our requests are well known, and there are already a large collection of unimplemented Arab summit decisions taken on these issues. Nevertheless, we will welcome and will respond to any Arab effort that would contribute towards restoring us to the path of normal life and provide us with a way to extricate ourselves from our crises and tragedies.

Speaker on 17 May Agreement, Israeli Measures

NC161524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Independent Parliamentary Bloc met today under Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and discussed the various developments in the Lebanese situation and the bloc's views as to the attitude Lebanon ought to adopt regarding these developments.

Replying to journalists questions after the meeting, Speaker al-As'ad said:

[Begin recording] The bloc reviewed the recent developments and it is now waiting to see what happens, especially on the basis of the bloc's well-known stand that priority be given to the battle for the liberation of the land. It is waiting to see what will develop whether with regard to the Syrian-Lebanese negotiations and the Lebanese-Syrian dialogue, for which we have been calling, or with regard to the wager on the U.S. initiative for the attainment of liberation.

[Unidentified reporter] At the press conference, held today after Minister Khaddam's meeting with his excellency the president, Mr Khaddam continued to emphasize and insist on the necessity of annulling the 17 May agreement. Has there been anything new with regard to the situation.... [interrupted by Al-As'ad]

[Al-As'ad] From the beginning, we have been saying — and this is natural — that if the agreement has defects [sentence incomplete]. The agreement ensures the liberation of the south. Therefore, annulling it would mean the loss of the south and, consequently, the loss of Lebanon as a whole as a result of its division, and the loss of the homeland and of the state. Therefore, the question of annulling it cannot be raised without having an alternative. We cannot review alternatives so long as the party which is calling for the annulment is not presenting an alternative. Certainly, in this case there should be an alternative — either a comprehensive Arab liberation war, or a specific agreement, or an amendment of the 17 May agreement.

[Reporter] Mr Speaker, Israel is taking new measures in the south. It is imposing exit and entry permits.

[Al-As'ad] I do not know that they have taken such measures. We contacted the Foreign Ministry and understood that these measures were not implemented. Certainly, we asked that these matters be averted before they take place because the measure — that one must obtain a permit in advance — means the complete isolation and amputation of the south, and the citizens' inability to continue to pursue their normal life and social activities with the Lebanese capital and the rest of Lebanon.

[Reporter] It has been reported that the Israelis will begin implementing this measure tomorrow and that they postponed it today.

[Al-As'ad] With regard to this measure, the state is supposed to seek to halt it. This is what we asked officials at the various levels to do — to seek through the (?influential) forces, particularly the United Nations, to prevent the implementation of this measure.

Should this measure be implemented, action must be taken to abolish it. In any case, this indicates the evil intentions of Israel. [End recording]

Junblatt on Resumption of War, U.S. Policy,

NC160720 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Walid Junblatt has warned that the war will be resumed if no solutions or at least a serious cease-fire appear on the horizon by the end of the month. Junblatt declared this on his arrival in Al-Mukhtarah from Damascus. Talking to his visitors, Junblatt outlined that the war is not over and that it is attached to political negotiations. Therefore, he said, it is necessary to maintain training, armament, and presence on the front. Junblatt criticized the U.S. policy in Lebanon and the area and said that the Druze community is honored to fight the Sixth Fleet.

VOL on Israeli-Druze Contact Over Syrian Arms

NC161158 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] It has been learned that a Progressive Socialist Party delegation, comprising Hisham Nasr ad-Din, 'Adil Sayyur, and 'Atif Sallum, has recently visited Israel for a series of contacts with a number of Druze figures, Defense Minister Moshe Arens' aides, and IDF intelligence officials. It has been learned that the Israeli officials have asked the Junblattist party figures to provide them shortly with a detailed report on the nature of the new weapons and missiles that the Syrians have introduced into Al-Biqa' and the mountain, as well as the number of Soviet and East European experts who enter the Syrian-controlled areas in Lebanon.

The Israeli officials drew the attention of the Junblattists to the seven bases belonging to the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group in the mountain, primarily the bases in Bhamdun, Ru'aysat an-Nu'man, the 'Aramun-ash-Shuwayfat area, and Shamlan. They also asked the Druze delegation to act to bring about the withdrawal of the Palestinian elements and their bases. The Israelis agreed to a Junblattist request to send a number of Druze men to Israel for training in artillery shelling and studying abscissae. Some 20 Druze will be trained; 5 were sent by Talal Arsalan, 5 by former deputy Fadlallah Talhuq, and 10 by Walid Junblatt. Each of them will receive 1,200 Lebanese pounds as a monthly salary to be paid from the Druze sect common fund.

U.S., Lebanese Aircraft Overfly Beirut Suburb

NC161557 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1546 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] While the Lebanese Army's positions in Al-Matahin, At-Tayyunah, Sannin, and Al-Barid in Ayn ar-Rummanah were coming under artillery fire from the positions of Communist gunmen and their associates in Ash-Shiyah, U.S. and Lebanese warplanes were flying in the skies of the southern suburb for reconnaissance purposes. Security reports say that an agreement has been reached to cease fire at 1730. The intensity of the attacks has abated but they did not stop completely. In Khaldah, two Lebanese soldiers were martyred as a result of the shelling on the Lebanese Army's positions. The shelling also covered the Aramun hills, the Radio Orient area, Saqi al-Hadath, the Faculty of Sciences, the Sidon Road, Al-Awzai, and the Beirut airport perimeter, where the Marines positions are located.

Alleged Operation Against U.S. Marines Foiled

NC161711 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1652 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] According to reliable security reports, those responsible for this task have foiled a scheduled operation against the U.S. contingent with the Multinational Force. The operation had been planned by a Palestinian affiliated to the Communist Party and a group with him, who had received training in acts of terrorism.

RFL Reports Syrians Order Continued Attacks

NC162127 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Radio Free Lebanon monitored a short time ago a contact between an official of the office of the Syrian deputy prime minister addressed to the branch of the Syrian military intelligence, where Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an is located. The contact included an official Syrian (?demand) to continue the intensive firing at official Lebanese centers in retaliation for the Lebanese official stand, and to fire at all legitimate institutions, deep in the areas controlled by the president. The socialist gunmen have actually expanded the scope of their attacks tonight. Their artillery and rocket shells reached several peaceful residential quarters in the capital and the suburbs to inflict more casualties and losses. The artillery shelling included the areas of Al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, Al-Hazimiyah, and the perimeter of the Defense Ministry, which received a direct hit. Shells fell also on Al-Fayyadiyah, B'abda, Al-Mansuriyah, the area of Nahr Bayrut, and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, where several cars were burned and Jirjis Salim Shuwayrah was killed.

Syria's Talas Inspects Forces in Barr Ilyas

NC162137 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas today inspected the Syrian forces in the advanced positions in the Barr Ilyas plain.

RFL: Junblatt Rejects Cease-Fire Proposals

NC162156 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Walid Junblatt has rejected the cease-fire proposals put to him tonight to calm the security situation. Junblatt communicated his frank rejection to Anwar al-Fatayiri [not further identified].

Guarded Calm Prevails in Various Areas 17 Nov

NC170626 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The latest reports from the security sources indicate that guarded calm prevails this morning in the various areas, the mountain, Beirut's suburbs, the northern Al-Matn coast, Ash-Shuwayfat, Khaldah, and other areas which had been under artillery and rocket fire throughout the night, including residential quarters in Greater Beirut and the southern suburbs. Unidentified helicopters flew over Beirut and the suburbs after midnight.

Casualties Reported in 16 Nov Israeli Raid

NC170642 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The Israeli air force yesterday attacked Ash-Sha'rah camp in Janta in the An-Nabi Shit area in Al-Biqa' about 7 km from Riyaq and 5 km from the Syrian-Lebanese border. Press reports today indicate that 35 people were killed, 80 wounded, and that the camp was destroyed during the raid.

Amal on Al-Biqa' Raid

NC170820 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Following a meeting of its Political Bureau, the Amal Movement called on the Lebanese regime to give up its complete dependence on the United States. The movement accused the United States of encouraging the Israeli gangs' practices and of paying the cost of such practices in advance, including the Israeli air force attack on some areas in the Al-Biqa'. The Amal Movement's statement said that after the U.S., international, and local information media focused on the Shi'ites and the areas of their presence in Lebanon as being the instigators of terrorism and explosions, the enemy air force attacked several areas in Al-Biqa' in implementation of this serious plot.

IDF Reinforce Al-Biqa', Golan

NC170648 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT17 Nov 83

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' say that columns of Israeli armored vehicles have begun to arrive as of yesterday at the contact lineswith the Syrians in the area and in the direction of the Golan Heights. These vehicles are being sent to specific positions. The Israelis have set up mobile checkpoints and have been making thorough searches of vehicles.

Mock Raids in South

NC171037 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] A squadron of Israeli aircraft has carried out mock raids over the An-Nabatiyah area. Our correspondent reports that the aircraft, which overflew the area 15 minutes ago, fired thermite bombs which were seen in the skies.

Kuwaiti Paper: Lebanon Denies 12 Soviets Entry

GF161450 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Nov 83 p 1

[Muhammad 'Anan dispatch from Beirut]

[Text] *AS-SIYASAH* has learned that the security authorities at Beirut airport have prevented 12 Soviet experts from entering the country through the airport.

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry had granted them entry visas through the Lebanese Embassy in Moscow. The Soviet experts were traveling on diplomatic passports.

The declared mission of these experts was to repair the Soviet Embassy building in Beirut, which was damaged during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon last year.

Sources told *AS-SIYASAH* that this entry denial was based on the fact that the Soviet experts' secret mission was to observe the movements of the Multinational Forces, particularly the movements of the Marines, and to learn about new positions on Mount Lebanon, which overlook the Mediterranean Sea.

Late Report: French Raid Target Near Ba'labakk

NC171458 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Paris, Nov 17 (AFP) — French planes today raided a military target east of Ba'labakk to "prevent fresh terrorist action against French forces in Lebanon," the Defense Ministry said here today.

The ministry said the super Etendard jets from the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* were acting on "specific instructions from Defense Minister Charles Hernu and the Armed Forces General Staff." The planes returned to base after completing their mission, the ministry added. The statement stressed the importance of preventing new terrorist attacks against French forces in Lebanon by pre-emptive action.

The Defense Ministry refused to give details of the target of the raid.

Last night, President Francois Mitterrand told a television audience that the "murder" of 58 French soldiers in the Multinational Force in Lebanon "will not go unpunished."

The soldiers died in a car bomb attack on their barracks in Beirut October 23. A virtually simultaneous car bomb attack on U.S. troop headquarters in the Lebanese capital killed 239.

Mr Mitterrand also said last night that self-defense was a basic right of man. "Those who carried out the attack (in Beirut) know they will face justified punishment," he added.

VOL Reports French Attack

NC171541 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The French Defense Ministry this evening announced that French military aircraft [words indistinct] military target located east of Ba'labakk in the Al-Biqa' to [words indistinct] the French positions.

Security sources said that the French raid was directed mainly at Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks, which the Musawites have occupied in Ba'labakk and [words indistinct] headquarters of Al-Musawi. The information adds that a squadron of 14 French planes [words indistinct] carried out the operation.

[Words indistinct] after the Israeli aircraft yesterday morning attacked [words indistinct].

Kuwait's AL-QABAS Cites Evans Al-Asad Interview

GF161516 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Nov 83 p 1

[Joel Kajian dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reported in a special interview — prior to his admission to hospital — with U.S. journalists Evans and Novak that he had informed the Soviets that they have to accept domination over the PLO, saying: "Either me or 'Arafat." In return for that, Al-Asad pledged to reject any plan for a comprehensive Middle East settlement if the Soviet Union was excluded. In the interview he added: I have no encouraging news for Shultz or for the new envoy Rumsfeld because we do not recognize nor will we recognize the 17 May agreement which was imposed on Lebanon. He added: If the "Shultz agreement" is not rescinded then we will remain in Lebanon indefinitely. He continued by saying that the Geneva negotiations are meaningless without the abrogation of the agreement.

Kuwaiti, Qatari Ministers Arrive on Visit

JN171137 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] At 1200 today, Shaykh Sulayman ad-Du'ayj as-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of justice, legal and administrative affairs; and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria.

Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Kuwaiti and Qatari ambassadors in Damascus received them at the airport.

SANA on Defense Minister's TISHRIN Interview

JN161618 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 16 Nov (SANA) — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and defense minister, has stressed that our valiant Armed Forces, have gained power and strength and will confront all challenges uninfluenced by any pressure or threat.

In an interview with the newspaper *TISHRIN*, published here today, Gen Talas said that the wise and brave leadership, represented by President Hafiz al-Asad, hero of the corrective movement, laid the appropriate groundwork for the continuation of struggle against occupation and aggression despite all the criminal attempts that have emerged on the Arab arena, from As-Sadat's treason and the unjust war Saddam launched against the Islamic revolution in Iran to the Zionist and imperialist invasion of Lebanon. He added: Throughout these developments, our fighters displayed greater determination, strength, and faith to confront the challenges facing our Arab nation.

Talas continued: While celebrating the beginning of another year in the corrective movement, we can affirm that, despite all of the threats and all of the U.S.-Imperialist massing of armies and fleets, the spirit of October will continue to be predominant in our confrontation of our Arab nation's enemies. Our fighters will reaffirm that they are worthy of carrying the sacred mission — the mission of the innocent martyrs.

Regarding the establishment of a strategic balance with the enemy, Gen Talas said: As President Hafiz al-Asad said, strategic balance with the enemy is our only option — whether we want war or peace. We can achieve this balance with the human and material capabilities and potential that we possess, because this balance is indispensable with regard to the Arab-Zionist conflict, which is a cultural conflict. In fact, we have made great strides in building our intrinsic power. This will enable us to confront our enemies, with the help of the masses of our Arab people and the support of our friends in the socialist bloc, headed by the Soviet Union, which (?supports) our Armed Forces, stands at our side, and backs our just causes.

On the Syrian Armed Forces' role in fraternal Lebanon and the initiative to stop the bloodshed, preserve Lebanon's unity, and keep it within the Arab trench in the face of aggression, Gen Talas said that this initiative was an expression of the pan-Arab course that our Armed Forces have been and still are carrying out.

He asserted that Al-Asad's Syrian Army is the army of the entire Arab nation and that it is always moving in accordance with this course, defending and confronting every vicious attempt aimed against our Arab nation or against a single inch of the great Arab homeland.

He added that it has become certain, in light of the development of affairs, that our Armed Forces' initiative has dispersed the imperialists' designs, robbed them of sleep, and made them use all of their force to remove the forces of confrontation from the Lebanese land so that Lebanon may become a gateway or lodging place for the implementation of their evil designs. However, our valiant and steadfast stand and our support for the forces of liberation in Lebanon have placed large obstacles in the face of the aggressors and those plotting to destroy our Arab people and replace our genuine Arab civilization with a false one.

Gen Talas referred in his statement to the Zionist-imperialist invasion of Lebanon and its results, and said: Our nation's enemies want to partition and disrupt Lebanon and to remove it from the Arab nation's trench. What we want and what we are determined to act for without any hesitation is for Lebanon to remain Arab and unified and able to contribute toward confronting the invasion and aggressive forces. He added: There is no room for any bargaining on this issue, and this is what was insisted upon in the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva.

Regarding the imperialist-Zionist threats against our country, Gen Talas emphasized: We will not fear any threats or pressures, and we will not retreat an inch from what we have decided and insisted on. He added: We understand the meaning of these threats. Let the enemies know that when the turn threats into facts, they will pay a very high price.

In his statement Gen Talas also touched on what is taking place in the Palestinian arena, and said: The PLO members have revealed Yasir 'Arafat's cards to our Arab people. Everyone knows the plans of 'Arafat and his clique, plans that eventually aim at liquidating the Palestine question and following the course of the colonialist projects, that seek to turn the region into bases of U.S. imperialism. He added that this is asserted by the [troop] concentrations and the fleets that are increasing daily.

Gen Talas also affirmed that our Syrian Arab country has made the Palestine question a core of its struggle. Therefore, it will confront all attempts to change its position, and 'Arafat and his clique will not benefit from the massacres they are carrying out against the Palestinian Arab people. Concluding his statement, Gen Talas said: Our Arab nation is passing through delicate and decisive circumstances, and we should be on the highest level of combat preparedness. He added: We should continue training, preparedness, and training in the use of arms day and night so that we are equal to the confidence that our Arab people in every part of the Arab homeland have placed in us. He also said: I am confident that our fighters, who gave the most impressive example of sacrifice in the October War and in Lebanon's battles, will destroy every attempt to undermine our will and honor. Victory will be for the steadfast strugglers.

Damascus Radio Reports U.S., Israeli Overflights

JN161358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut — The cease-fire reached in Beirut this morning was violated. Shells fell on various parts of the Lebanese capital. Beirut radio said that fierce clashes are now raging on the 'Aytat, Suq al-Gharb and Dahr al-Wahsh axes and that all types of heavy weapons are being used. The clashes and shelling, which began yesterday and stopped this morning, resulted in the death of 3 persons and the injury of over 20 others, in addition to massive material damage.

In another development, the U.S. and Israeli warplanes today intermittently overflew Beirut and the mountain area.

In southern Lebanon a group of Lebanese nationalist resistance men this morning attacked an Israeli military position near the Qana road intersection in southern Lebanon with light machineguns and handgrenades, wounding at least 10 Zionist soldiers.

Damascus on Eagleberger, U.S.-Israeli Cooperation

JN161831 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] A short time ago, Lawrence Eagleberger, U.S. under secretary of state, visited Israel and held talks with Israeli officials. His visit took place after the U.S. Marines' headquarters in Beirut was blown up and after the American — Zionist at heart — Henry Kissinger's call for establishing direct military cooperation between the U.S. forces in Lebanon and the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon.

In a statment to the FRG magazine *DER SPIEGEL*, Eagleberger has described the aims of his visit to Israel as follows: Our special relations with Israel are based on historical and emotional reasons. My recent visit to Israel aims at bolstering these relations and contributing to the removal of some old differences. He added: Our close relations with Israel are very necessary if we want to reach peace and stability in the Middle East.

What does this American talk mean? The answer came from Washington as follows: First, U.S. military and financial aid to Israel have broken the record in the history of U.S. aid. Second, meeting Israel's military requirements for arms shipment and technical assistance to produce the Lavi warplane and to develop advanced weapons systems. Third, U.S. military provocations in Lebanon and threats to Syria in particular. Fourth, U.S. instigation of Israel to carry out provocations, aggressions, and threats in the region. The Israeli raid on some Hirmil-Ba'labakk areas might be one of the results of that instigation. Fifth, the revival of the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel.

These factors and facts might help us conclude that the United States, which tries to practice the policy of the gunboat and the gun in order to terrorize the region's people and impose its domination over them, has openly used Israel as a tool for terrorism, striking, and aggression within the comprehensive U.S. policy in the region, and is using the Israeli policy of invasion, aggression, and expansionism to serve U.S. policy and plans. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon is an example. That invasion was carried out with U.S. approval, given by Alexander Haig, and U.S. coordination.

When Eagleberger says that the United States should be interested in strengthening the special relations with Israel — relations that the Arabs understand very well — and when the United States wants to reach peace and stability in the region, we know that such talk means the Arabs' surrender to the U.S. military force; Israel's domination over the region's destiny; the destruction of the Arabs' national, central issue in Palestine; and using the Arabs alongside Israel and under its leadership in order to serve U.S. imperialism and its aggressive plans in opposition to world peace. The stability that Eagleberger is seeking is the stability of the Israeli occupation of Arab land, Israel's usurpation of Arab rights, and U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the Arab homeland and its oil wealth and legitimate interests.

The statements made by Eagleberger, and before him Carter, Shultz, Weinberger, McFarlane — let alone the statement made by George Paul and Henry Kissinger — are statements that lack composure, balance, and justice. They are provocative statements that show a clear desire to increase tension in the region and move matters toward explosion. We do not exaggerate or underestimate U.S. power and its potentials and position when we remind that the Middle East is not Grenada, and that the United States can commit the same mistake in the Middle East without paying a very high price. The lifeless figures and data that are feeding the American computer might not be able to deal with peoples' will and love for freedom and independence; or with the huge energies of people who aspire to freddom and defend independence, sovereignty, freedom, national will, and natural rights. Just as the American computer deceived in Vietnam and other places, it might also deceive Eagleberger and some of his advisers and aides, who live in the past and dream of reversing the wheel of development.

It is true that the United States is a superpower, and Syria is not a superpower, as Eagleberger put it; but it is also true that the cause that Syria is defending is a just one, and that the cause the United States adopts is an unjust one. It is true that the United States has large military forces; but it is also true that the United States, in accordance with current balance of powers in the world, is not the only state that can determine the course of development in the world. It is true that the United States is able to start aggression either directly or through its creation and tool, Israel. But it is also true that Syria will fight in self-defense with all its power, and will seek all assistance that can contribute to that defense. The side that starts aggression might not be the side that can end it.

SANA Reports Khaddam Activities in Beirut

Meeting With Al-Jumayyil

JN161553 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut, 16 Nov (SANA) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in the township of Bikfayya this afternoon. Khaddam arrived in Beiurt before noon today on a short visit to Lebanon.

Beirut News Conference

JN161803 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut, 16 Nov (SANA) — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a news conference following his meeting with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in Bikfayya before noon today. The following are the newsmen's questions and Khaddam's replies:

Question: Can you describe your talks with President Al-Jumayyil today?

Answer: The talks were held in a fraternal and cordial atmosphere during which we discussed several issues and reviewed the various current situations in Lebanon and in the Arab area, particularly the coming steps after the Geneva Conference. We hope that the second round of the National Dialogue Conference will be held so that the current crisis in this country can end.

Question: In fact, the coming round of the Geneva Conference depends ont he results of President al-Jumayyil's tour of some Arab capitals, foremost of which is Damascus. Have you set another date for Al-Jumayyil's visit?

Answer: Yes, we agreed that President al-Jumayyil will visit Damascus soon after President Hafiz al-Asad recovers after leaving the hospital.

Question: There is another urgent subject being raised now — namely, the cease-Fire to which Syria has considerably contributed. You have personally declared the cease-fire, that is, the end of war in Lebanon. We see that this cease-fire is being violated and must be fixed. What can Syria do in practice to put this agreement into effect?

Answer: This subject has taken up a basic part of our discussions. We agreed on some practical measures. There will be a high-level meeting among the military officials of the parties concerned. We agreed in Geneva to draw up practical arrangements that would end the possibility of cease-fire violations.

Question: Do you think that the cease-fire will hold?

Answer: It must hold.

Question: What is Syria's stand on the Israeli shelling of the Al-Biqa' area today?

Answer: Israel is the aggressor. Naturally, this shelling exposes to us the seriousness of the continuation of the Israeli presence in Lebanon. It also dictates to us the need to exert further effort and action to prevent aggression.

Question: Press reports indicate that today's meeting with President al-Jumayyil will deal with defining the agenda of President al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus. Have any broad lines been discussed?

Answer: The talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Amin al-Jumayyil will cover everything. Everything of interest to Lebanon, Syria, and the area will be discussed.

Question: What is your stand on the [17 May] agreement?

Answer: You know our stand on the agreement of submission. We believe that this agreement must be nullified, because it constitutes a major obstacle in the way of restoring Lebanon's security, stability, and peace and in the way of restoring Lebanon's unity, as it imposes restrictions on Lebanon and gives gains to Israel. We hope that the current efforts will be able to deliver Lebanon from this impasse.

Question: Are you prepared to confront the Israeli forces or to station Arab forces in Lebanon?

Answer: We are prepared to discuss and agree with the Lebanese Government and with the Arab governments regarding whatever serves Lebanon and its independence, unity, and sovereignty over every inch of its territory.

Rallies Marking Corrective Movement Held

Popular Organizations Rally

JN162220 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic in a hookup with Damascus Television at 1505 GMT on 16 November carries a live broadcast of the speech rally held at Damascus University auditorium on the 13th anniversary of the 1970 Corrective Movement that was led by President Hafiz al-Asad. The president is represented at the rally by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party Regional Command.

The rally officially begins at 1515 GMT with a speech by Hamid Hasan, president of the National Federation of Syrian Students, on behalf of Syrian popular organizations. He describes the Corrective Movement as "a new dawn" in the history of Syria and says the movement has set in motion a series of achievements in the fields of education, economic development, and public freedoms. Domestic achievements, he adds, have been matched by a leading role in pan-Arab struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and regain the rights of the Palestinian people. Hasan says: This is why Syria today faces U.S. and NATO fleets, defies the threats of the imperialist forces, and "raises the slogan of strategic balance with the Zionist entity in the military, scientific, and technological fields."

At 1530 GMT, Fayiz Isma'il, secretary general of the Socialist Unionists Party, delivers a speech for the Progressive National Front. He devotes his speech to reviewing Syria's leading role in the continuous struggle to liberate occupied Arab territories, regain Palestinian rights, and achieve Arab unity. He concludes by saying: "Our Syrian people are heroic and courageous, not weak and cowardly; with steadfast and confronting, not defeatists and capitulationists; with Arabism and unity, not regionalism and isolationism; and are free strugglers, not agent traitors."

At 1550 GMT, Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, delivers a speech for the Ba'th Party on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad. He begins his speech by reviewing the background, history and achievements of the Corrective Movement on both the domestic and external levels. He then recounts the Syrian Armed Forces' role in the June 1982 battles against Israel in Al-Biqa' and condemns the Lebanese-Israeli agreement which, he says, seeks to turn Lebanon into a springboard for aggression against Syria and the Arab antion.

Mashariqah adds: "We warn those who wager on Israel and the Israeli role that the Lebanese Arab people will not have mercy on them and that the bet on Israel is a loser. Those who cooperate with Israel and the United States to enable them to dominate Lebanon and the region have placed themselves in the ranks of the enemies of the people. If the objective of the conspiracy that is being hatched by the imperialists and the racist Zionists is to make Lebanon a base and a springboard to control the Arab region; if the objective of this conspiracy is to enable the imperialists and the racist Zionists to attack Syria, which is a hostile base to imperialism and Zionism, then the enemies of the Arab nation have forgotten that Syria is strong enough. It has strength from its people, masses, leading party, progressive national front, popular organizations, workers, peasants, and all factions of its toiling popular masses. We will face the aggression with all the power we have.

"We would like to emphasize to the enemies that Syria is not an easy morsel that anyone can swallow up. Those who contemplate aggression against Syria, must read history well. They must also know that Syria is not alone in the battle. The Arab masses everywhere in the Arab homeland stand by its side. It is also supported by all the progressive and liberation forces in the world, especially the socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR, the loyal friend and strong ally of our Arab masses and nation in their just struggle."

Mashariqah continues: "Some may ask: Why is this plotting against Syria being done, and why are these attempts to undermine it and force it to surrender? The answer to that is simple. Syria is the one that has foiled the treasonous Camp David line that was followed by traitor As-Sadat and later reached a dead end. Syria is now foiling the new Camp David represented by the Reagan Plan. It is also confronting those who are running after the Reagan plan, whether they are those who bewail the PLO in Amman, Baghdad, and Cairo who want Camp David to apply to everyone, or those whom chance has placed in the positions of leadership in the Palestinian arena and who have lost their course and objective. They thought that running after the Reagan Plan and empowering the Jordanian regime to represent them would give them a role in this suspect plan."

Referring to Palestinian infighting in northern Lebanon and the accusations against Syria, Mashariqah says: "It is in this framework that the deviationists in the Palestinian arena have made their attempts to liquidate the strugglers of the Fatah movement; the real strugglers who reject capitulation and liquidation plans. The deviationists also tried to resort to arms to crush the Palestinian national line, which strengthens armed struggle. The arrival of the deviationist leadership in northern Lebanon was only a part of this comprehensive plan to help implement the capitulation plan by turning Tripoli, the capital of the North, into a battlefield and to destroy that brave city, which is considered a unionist struggle bastion. The deviationist leadership's arrival in Tripoli and the suspect rabid campaign against Syria have coincided with the U.S. concentrations of 30 warships and 300 planes on aircraft carriers off the Lebanese shores and with general mobilization in the Zionist entity and the call up of reserve forces. They have also coincided with an intensification of the imperialist onslaught and the heightening of the tone of threats in coordination with the Camp David partners and those cooperating with them."

Mashariqah says: "But all the enemies and the agents revolving in their orbit have forgotten that Syria is not afraid of concentrations and fleets, and cannot be affected by any threats. Syria can repulse any aggression. As President Hafiz al-Asad said: Syria has only one choice; it is to reject all imperialist plans and attempts to dominate the region, and to confront these attempts and plans regardless of all eventualities. We in Syria have made our decision to resist imperialist attempts to subjugate the reigon. We are determined to confront all imperialist and Zionist plans, and to triumph over the imperialists' ambitions under all circumstances."

Mashariqah concludes by saying: "Brother citizens, the campaigns of the deviationists will not affect Syria's determination to continue to fully assume the responsibility of the Palestine question. The Palestine question is a crucial national issue to Syria. We will not allow any power, despite all the plotting, to affect the substance of the Palestine question."

The rally ends at 1631 GMT.

PLA Rally

JN161934 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] Joint Staff held a speech rally at the army's workshop in Jaramanah at 1000 today on the 13th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement under Comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. The speeches given by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the PLA Joint Staff, and the fighters affirmed that the 16 October Movement is a historic turning point in the life of our glorious party and this country's masses, because it restored purity and clarity to the 8 March Revolution and allowed the people's masses to practice their freedom and prove their ability to build and liberate.

The speeches also praised Syria's steadfast position under President Hafiz al-Asad against all forms of imperialist-Zionist plans that are hostile to our Arab nation and its just causes. The speakers also promised leader Al-Asad that the PLA fighters will remain loyal to the party and revolution, side by side with the comrades in arms in the brave Syrian Armed forces in defending the Arab nation's honor, pride, and just causes.

Briefs:

Consulate in Jidda — Damascus, 10 Nov (SANA) — It has been decided to establish a consulte in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, attached to the Syrian Embassy in Riyadh. The work of this new consulate will cover the western side of Saudi Arabia. [Text] [Damascus SANA in Arabic 1312 GMT 10 Nov 83 JN]

Shamir, Rumsfeld Discuss Middle East Problems

TA161921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The United States has reiterated its commitment to the agreement between Israel and Lebanon. This was said at a talk between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld. In the prime minister's view, if the United States and Lebanon firmly insist on keeping the agreement, the Syrians will in the end conclude that there is no alternative but to accept the solutions proposed in the agreement.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the two also discussed the Air Force action against Shi'ite terrorist objectives in Lebanon. The prime minister spoke about the situation following Yasir 'Arafat's downfall, saying that in the future the Syrians would not be able to claim that they had no control over the PLO because all the terrorist forces that have remained in Lebanon were under their complete control. Mr Shamir also thinks that after the PLO's removal the autonomy talks can be advanced with the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria.

Further on Talks

TA170715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The possibility that Jordan may join the autonomy talks was raised yesterday between the prime minister and U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld. Yitzhaq Shamir said he has invited Husayn to the negotiating table, although there are no signs that the latter is willing to come. Rumsfeld said that the continuation of settlements in the territories is an obstacle to the peace process. The prime minister answered that under Israeli rule, the conditions of the Arabs in the territories have improved more than they had under Husayn's rule. This morning Donald Rumsfeld will talk with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and at the end of the week will continue his travels in the area. U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis will also travel to Washington for consultations.

Shamir Objects to FRG Arms Sales to Saudis

DW160933 Bonn DIE WELT in German 14 Nov 83 p 5

[Report on inteview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Juergen Liminski in Shamir's office in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpt] In a conversation with *DIE WELT*, the first interview he has granted to non-Israeli media since assuming office, Shamir says: "In Syria's attempt to fully dominate the PLO, Syria's intention — and this must be taken seriously — to prepare an attack on Israel is evident." It is true that he is not worried about the mobilization of the Syrian Armed Forces, but Israel must "always be vigilant" in the face of this state "which is the most hostile of all Arab states toward Israel" and in addition is strongly supported by the Soviet Union.

Shamir speaks slowly, almost in a measured way. Every word seems to be weighed well and considered. "Syria says quite frankly that its mission is to combat Israel. Syria's leaders say that after Egypt defected from the Arab camp and Jordan can no longer be taken seriously, and since Iraq's forces are absorbed in the Gulf war, Syria is the only country left to wage the Arab war against the Jewish state. The Syrian leadership believes that with the help of the Soviet Union, it will be able to fight Israel by itself in the near future. They call that a strategic balance with Israel, but it is a euphemism because they mean military superiority which will allow them to defeat the Israeli Army."

The historic cycle of Arab-Israeli relations repeats itself here as well, he says. "There is always an Arab leader who considers himself to be the Saladin of our present time." This was the case at the time of Egyptian chief of state An-Nasir, then Iraq's Saddam Husayn tried it, and "now it is Al-Asad's turn."

Just like An-Nasir, Al-Asad also wants to prevent "his responsibility for confrontation with Israel from being disturbed by terrorist organizations. Al-Asad does not want any surprises; he wants to have total control of this struggle." The Syrians' desire to gain full control of the PLO reminds Shamir ominiously of An-Nasir. "He does not want to be forced by any organization to fight or to be dragged into a fight. He wants to decide on the date of the battle himself," and, Shamir adds in a lower voice, "he also wants to have the weapons of terrorism in his arsenal."

Shamir says tha Israel can well hold its own in an open battle. However, how, he asks, can a democratic state react to attacks in a terrorist war like those which were recently committed in Beirut and Tyre with at least the complicity of Syria? Shamir leans back and looks out the window. He seems to be lost in thought about his past broad experience. He chooses his words deliberately like moving chess pieces: "Israel has had experiences with this type of struggle, and we will find the ways and means to counter these attacks."

Shamir is not a man of blind action; he does not slam doors shut. Calm, thoughtfulness, and resolve characterize this 68- year-old man. He does not look like a man of transition. It is not just the people in his immediate circle who say that his calm and steadiness are precisely what Israel needs now. His popularity is increasing.

At his first Cabinet meeting as prime minister, he reportedly said in a friendly and resolute way: "We do not want cliques; we do not want criticism of the government. We will hold our discussions here and not in the streets." Six weeks after the crisis began, people in Israel at least know that Shamir leads. If he can weld the coalition together again during the next few weeks, he will in all probability be as lasting a transitional prime minister as Golda Me'ir was in her time. It would not be wise not to reckon with Shamir for the next few years.

He comments on the passionate statement by French Foreign Minister Cheysson ("the PLO is necessary for peace in the region") with a touch of irony: "Some observers summarize French Middle East policy as having primarily two factors — the PLO and Iraq. However, what has happened to them?" Then he says with his usual seriousness: "The PLO is no longer a factor in the interplay of forces in the Middle East. You can see that at the reconciliation conference in Geneva. It did not even have an observer there, even though for 1 and 1/2 years it played a dominant role in Lebanon. It now no longer has a say. That illustrates its decline."

The Israeli prime minister views the Palestinians' future as follows: "I very much hope that the Arab people in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will learn a lesson from the tragic events in Tripoli. They must now ask themselves what the reasons are for this fratricidal war, this war between the people of one and the same nation; they must ask themselves why members of the same movement are killing each other in such a cruel way?" This question is "totally confusing" to the Palestinians.

In addition, "it has been the tragedy of the Arab people in Palestine since the beginning of this century that they have always been under the influence of small extremist groups — terrorists who became their leaders and have always rejected a compromise with us, the nationl movement of the Jews in Palestine." "To the present day" these leaders have "led the Palestinian people from one tragedy to another, from one catastrophe to another."

He presents it like a dogma: "The autonomy plan of Camp David iS the only way which promises progress and ensures hope that the people will eventually be able to lead normal lives. This autonomy plan paves the way for negotiations on the future political regulation of these regions (West Bank and the Gaza Strip — ed.) and gives the Arab people there an opportunity to cooperate in shaping their future. That is their only chance and the only realistic way."

Concretely, this means that "the Arab Palestinians must now approach the Egyptian authorities and King Husayn of Jordan and ask them to resume negotiations which us with the participation of the Arab Palestinians themselves. Only in this way will we find a solution."

The riots in Judaea and Samaria were connected with the "despair over the tragedy of Tripoli." However, Shamir asks, how does it help 'Arafat "when stones are thrown at tourists?" Almost depressed, he says: "these people are losing their heads."

It is easy for this experienced diplomat to provide a quick outline of the Soviet Union's role in the Middle East. He considers absurd statements by Egyptian politicians that Moscow, being one of the guarantor powers, in effect must be included in the peace process in accordance with the American-Soviet statement of 1 October 1977. "The Camp David accords were concluded after this statement had been declared null and void; it can no longer be revived." Shamir says that its nullification was a prerequisite for the negotiations which led to the Camp David agreements.

Shamir stresses: "We believe that peace in our region must result from negotiations among the peoples living in this region. In no way will Israel accept participation by the Soviet Union as long as Moscow does not change its negative attitude toward Israel." For the time being, such a change "is unfortunately not in sight." On the contrary, he notes, the Soviet Union is arming Syria with the most modern weapons. In this connection, Shamir says that the supply of SS-21 missiles is a "threat to Israel, the free world, peace, and stability in the Middle East."

He says that as the An-Nasir regime once did, the Soviet Union is now supporting "Al-Asad's totalitarian approach." Shamir states that Al-Asad needs the Soviet Union to be the sole leader of the Arabs, and today he can be sure of this support. However, whether this will remain the case in the future is not certain, he notes. "Nothing is permanent in politics," and there have often been revolutionary changes in the Middle East. The Soviets are also aware of that, he says. At present, Israel must "watch the Soviet-Syrian maneuvers with extreme vigilance." Israel is not interested in a war and will "do everything humanly possible to ensure that war does not break out," he stresses.

Shamir obviously also attaches great importance to his forthcoming visit to the United States. On his functional desk lies a book entitled: *Ronald Reagan — Speeches 1961-1982.* Shamir feels that the intervention in Grenada, which Israel officially welcomed, has enhanced U.S. prestige in the Middle East because it demonstrated that "America is vigilant and willing to use its strength, if necessary." Strategic cooperation with Washington will be intensified, he says.

Shamir finds it difficult to answer the question of how Israel would react if the FRG were to supply weapons to Saudi Arabia. However, his hesitation is followed by an unequivocal statement. "We are worried about that. For us, it is not only a matter of whether the Leopard 2 tank will be supplied, but whether German weapons will be sold to Arab states which are Israel's enemies and whether there will be military cooperation between the FRG and these countries. Israel cannot accept such coopertion. Israel cannot accept German-made weapons to be supplied to states which want to destroy us. We will take advantage of every opportunity to convince the responsible people in the Federal Republic of our standpoint." He says that Israel also rejects any sort of compensation deal. "These are two different things. Basically and in principle, we reject all military cooperation between the Federal Republic and the Arab countries."

Asked whether Israel would also be worried and alarmed if there were military cooperation with Egypt, Shamir says: "Yes, we would be almost equally worried."

Then, with a note of reconciliation that is characteristic of him, he says: "I would like to say above all that I am looking forward with pleasure and great interest to Chancellor Kohl's visit. I hope this visit can take place as soon as possible. We will then discuss all these problems, exchange views on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and examine the broad field of our common interests. We are looking forward to this visit."

Chief of Staff Raps Tyre Inquiry Report

TA161144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Chief of Staff Moshe Levi says that the release of the report by the inquiry commission on the Tyre disaster is a combination of bona fide and intentional or malicious tendencies.

At the meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the chief of staff promised that he himself will examine the report.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the head of the inquiry commission, Major General Amnon Reshef, was absent from the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee although it was promised yesterday that he would participate in it.

Details of Report

TA161614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] One of the main conclusions of the commission that investigated the attack in Tyre is that the IDF was unaware of all the possible ramifications of the explosion at the Marine and French army headquarters in Beirut. This has been learned by our correspondent Arye Golan.

Today the chief of staff reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the inquiry commission's conclusions. He read out long sections of the report but did not hand it over to the committee members to study. The members of the inquiry commission interrogated about 100 people; 58 pieces of evidence are cited in the report, including evidence given by 7 inhabitants living near the scene of the explosion, 2 UNIFIL men, and a Lebanese Army soldier. The UNIFIL soldiers were questioned in writing. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was told that the commission visited the scene of the explosion twice. It has emerged that some of the pieces of evidence were lost as a result of the attack and some of the evidence was reconstructed on the spot.

The chief of staff told the committee that the occurrence of the explosion proves that here and there the IDF was not in order. Lieutenant General Moshe Levi pointed out that this should not be ignored, nor had he any intention of doing so.

BAMAHANE Editor Fired

TA161755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] One of the main conclusions of the commission looking into the Tyre disaster is that the IDF was not aware of all the ramifications arising from the explosions at Marine and French Army headquarters in Beirut.

The chief of staff today reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the conclusions of the inquiry. He said that the fact that the explosion occurred shows that here and there the IDF is not as good as it should be.

Lieutenant General Moshe Levi apologized to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee because *BAMAHANE* magazine published the commission's report on the Tyre explosion before it was handed to the Cabinet and the committee for perusal.

Our military correspondent reports that the chief of staff ordered the dismissal of the editor of BAMAHANE, Lieutenant Colonel 'Oded Feldman. Our correspondent has learned that the chief of staff did not know of the intention to publish the conclusions in the paper and that the editor of *BAMAHANE* did not know about it either. The censor and field security personnel authorized the publication. The chief of staff told the committee that the report was published contrary to an explicit decision not to publish it.

Military Believes Syria May Attack in 1984

TA161514 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Nov 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yosef Walter, Shefi Gabay, and Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpts] By 1984 the Syrian Army will be strengthened to a point where the Damascus regime may believe that it is capable of challenging the IDF. This is the evaluation of Israeli military sources.

Israeli sources emphasize that the IDF's assessment is that the Syrians do not believe that in 1984 they will be able to conquer Haifa or Nazareth, but they do believe that they will be able to honorably challenge the IDF, with the Soviet Union remaining in the background and encouraging them to believe that Moscow will give Damascus strategic support to prevent the total defeat of the Syrian Army.

The sources believe that a Syrian offensive against Israel is not imminent.

Moreover, the assumption is that the Damascus regime too is not expecting an imminent Israeli offensive. In the opinion of these sources, a number of simultaneous events gave rise to the Syrians' nervousness and made them adopt measures which have been interpreted by the U.S. media as preparations for war or an imminent offensive.

Referring to the reports on the stationing of SAM-9's in Lebanon, the sources stressed that the Syrian Army is equipped with launchers of this type. This is an organic [last word in English] tool in field units and according to IDF assessments, the Syrian forces in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' have a number of such tools as part of their antiaircraft defense system. These tools have been positioned in the Al-Biqa' region for a number of months now and is nothing new to the IDF.

As for the concern that the latest reports aroused at the Israeli political level, the sources said that the intensified Syrian buildup points to dangers which must be followed, and the government is doing well to hold special discussions on this issue since it has far-reaching implications for building up the IDF's strength.

The military sources indicate the numerous changes that have taken place in the Syrian Army over the last 18 months in the level of manpower and the weapons at its disposal. The Syrian Air Force has made up for its losses during the Peace for Galilee Operation by receiving more modern aircraft and has improved the antiaircraft defense system beyond recognition. In the course of the past year, the Syrian Air Force has also received missiles of the SA-6, SA-8, and SA-9 type. In its training system it also has the SA-5-type missile. The ground forces are equipped now with hundreds of T-72 tanks, BMP-1 armored personnel carriers and, in general, the Syrian armored force is equipped with about 4,000 tanks which are more modern than those it possessed in the past. These tanks are equipped with some of the most advanced steering control systems in the world.

Kimche Comments on Air Force Raid on Lebanon

TA170637 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0615 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The Air Force attack on terrorist bases in Lebanon yesterday was not a show of strength toward the Syrians, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche stated this morning in an interview with the BBC. Kimche added: This is a continuation of the Israeli policy of retaliation against terrorist operations. Our correspondent Ilana Dayan reports on the Foreign Ministry director general's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Kimche — in English] These were Iranian Shi'ites and Lebanese Shi'ites, very close to the beliefs of Khomeyni, who work in close coordination with the Syrians. They would not have been able to do what they did....

[Dayan translates the above and continues] The director general of the Foreign Ministry emphasized that without the Syrians, these terrorists would not have been able to realize their plans. Kimche concluded: It may be said that the Syrians are doing whatever they please with them. Nevertheless, the objective of the Israeli operation was not a show of strength toward the Syrians.

[Kimche — in English] It wasn't a show of strength against the Syrians, it was a continuation of our policy to strike back at terrorist attacks. I believe the Syrians will also read in this a show of strength....

[Dayan translates the above and continues] I believe the Syrians will want to regard this as a show of strength toward them. However, our purpose was specifically to prove again that we will not sit idly by while terrorist organizations attack us. Israel, the director general of the Foreign Ministry concluded, wants to achieve unity within Lebanon.

[Kimche — in English] We are hoping that the talks that began in Geneva a couple of weeks ago between the various Lebanese factions can lead to greater unity among the Lebanese, because even the opposition Lebanese — the opposition to the present government — do want to see, we believe, the Syrians leave their country. And, from this point of view, there is already a certain unity among them, at least in that desire to see the Syrians leave. [end recording]

UN Observers Inspect Golan Heights Agreement

TA170805 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The UN observers yesterday finished the inspection of the Israeli and Syrian reduced-forces zone on the Golan Heights. Our reporter Hayim Hecht reports that the inspection revealed that both sides are observing the disengagement agreement. No greater quantity of weapons and ammunition than that agreed upon in the agreement were found in the 25-km zone. Such an inspection is held every 2 weeks. The observers' report will be handed to the IDF, the Syrian Army, and the UN Council today.

Junblatt Aide on 'Rapprochement' With Syria

TA161538 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Nov 83 p 2

[Report from the north by Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] Dr 'Atif Sallum, who is considered "the foreign minister" in Walid Junblatt's shadow government, said in a talk with Israeli correspondents yesterday that the Druze community in Lebanon has been pushed into a corner despite the clear signals it sent to the State of Israel about its desire for cooperation. As a result, he said, a rapprochement has occurred between the Lebanese Druze and Syria.

Dr Sallum added that nobody in Lebanon was concerned about the legitimate interests of the Druze in this country and therefore the community members had to defend themselves by themselves and with the help of their arms.

Sallum denied reports that the Druze blockaded the Christian village of Dayr al-Qamar in the Ash-Shuf, calling this "anti-Druze Christian propaganda." He said that his community in Lebanon supports any settlement achieved by the reconciliation conference in Geneva.

Sallum said the Lebanese Army soldiers today serve as the militia of Christian Amin al-Jumayyil and that in this service they fire at and harass Druze concentrations in the Ash-Shuf Mountains.

IDF Foils Terrorist Attack on Al-Awwali

TA170534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] This afternoon a terrorist opened fire at IDF soldiers at the northern checkpoint on the Al-Awwali River bridge. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that at about 1630 the terrorist opened fire at the checkpoint when he was 500 meters away, and he immediately began running toward the orchards in the area. The soldiers returned fire. This is the second case this week in which IDF soldiers have foiled an attempt to attack the passes. A few days ago a Shi'ite terrorist tried to throw a handgrenade but was shot and killed. Our correspondent has been told that despite these incidents the passes will remain open, but with meticulous security checks.

Beirut Merchants Harassed for Dealing With Israel

TA161015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Businessmen from the Beirut area have been complaining that they are being harassed because they conduct business with Israel. They told our correspondent warehouses have been set on fire, two offices have been blown up, and serious damage has been done to shops and businesses. According to the businessmen, the attacks were encouraged by the Beirut government. They produced letters sent to them by the Lebanese Economic Ministry warning them to stop trading with Israel.

Lebanese Economy, Trade, and Tourism Minister Ibrahim Halawi has reiterated that the Lebanese people and government are opposed to implementing the normalization agreement with Israel. In response, officials in Jerusalem said that as far as Israel is concerned, the agreement with Lebanon remains in effect, including all clauses on normalization.

West Bank Figure Urges Husayn Role in Area

JN161055 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1543 GMT 15 Nov 83

[Text] Ramadan Hajjih, former member of the Jordanian parliament, has said that there must be a decision by an Arab summit to authorize King Husayn of Jordan to look after West Bank affairs. He expressed the belief that the West Bank inhabitants at present are happier than the Palestinians living abroad. Our correspondent for West Bank affairs met with Ramadan Hajjih and conducted the following interview with him on the current situation:

[Begin recording] Of course, the current situation is very miserable. Anyone who has observed the Palestinian organizations from the beginning knew that the moment they left Amman in 1970 their present situation was inevitable. These organizations are numerous and each belongs to a certain Arab country. Naturally, the contradictions within the Arab world were found in these organizations, and consequently the Palestinian contradictions were also present. However, I personally lost hope in the organizations the moment they left the West Bank. I consider the East Bank our homeland, that is, the two banks of Jordan are one homeland and one family. I believe that the moment they left the East Bank there was no homeland left for them.

[Correspondent] How do you view the future relations between the East Bank and the West Bank?

[Hajjih] King Husayn accepted an Arab summit resolution in Rabat, and if there is to be a link between the East and West banks there must be a resolution by an Arab summit to authorize King Husayn to look after West Bank affairs.

[Correspondent] How do you now view the Fatah movement as an organization?

[Hajjih] There has been dissidence inside Fatah and numerous contradictions led this movement to its present situation.

[Correspondent] Do you see signs that in the future there will be West Bank figures who will seek direct dialogue and peaceful coexistence between the West Bank inhabitants and Israel?

[Hajjih] I consider those who are presently living in the West Bank happier than the Palestinians living in the Arab world. But it is improper for West Bank inhabitants to engage in a dialogue alone because those who are living abroad are also owners of a homeland and a cause. Those who are inside cannot be authorized to represent or determine the future of those abroad. [end recording]

Civilian Administration Head Tours Hebron

TA161630 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1610 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Hebron, 16 Nov (ITIM) — "It is only through such projects as the village leagues that it will be possible to further the peace process; we hope the rural sector will in the future act as a bridge between Arabs and Jews in the area," the head of the Civilian Administration, Shlomo Ilia, said in a speech he delivered today to representatives of the village leagues in the Hebron area.

Today the head of the Civilian Administration toured the Hebron district and also visited the head of the Qiryat Arba' council, Shalom (Wach), and discussed with him the possibilities for holding meetings between Arabs and Jews in Samaria. Later he visited the Hebron Municipality, and Mayor Shemesh reviewed the financial difficulties confronting the municipality for him.

At the end of the visit, Shlomo Ilia inaugurated the new Dura Municipality building. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Jamil al-'Amlah, the head of the village leagues, and Mustafa Dudin, the former head of the village leagues, as well as representatives of the leagues, the town, and many members of the public.

West Bank Disturbances 15 Nov Summarized

TA161648 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Nov 83 p 2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el and Barukh Na'e]

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday at a military vehicle which was traveling near Rachel's Tomb at the entrance to Bethlehem. Nobody was hurt. The security forces searched the area and detained a number of people for interrogation.

The Samaria District police are looking for a Peugeot pickup truck with Israeli plates from which shots were fired at noon yesterday at Arab vehicles in Nabulus. Yesterday at noon an Arab in Nabulus complained that shots were fired at his cab when he parked in the center of Nabulus, at the station for Tulkarm-bound taxis. Police found slugs and observed that the cab's front windshield was smashed as a result of the firing. The police explanation is that when stones were thrown in that area at passing Israeli cars, one of the Israeli drivers apparently fired shots to deter the stone-throwers.

Thirty minutes later stones were thrown at the same place at a border police patrol. The police chased the stonethrower and caught him. He was detained for interrogation.

Yesterday morning a Palestinian flag was discovered at a clinic in the Bayt Furik village and security forces removed it.

In a telegram to Defense Minister Arens, the leaders of the Samaria Jewish settlements demanded yesterday that he immediately intervene in events in the military court in Nabulus. According to Beni Katzover, the head of the Samaria regional council, a military judge, a reservist, is encouraging the throwing of stones at Jews.

(Wadih Hasin 'Ali Sahb), 13, of Nabulus, was indicted in the military court in Nabulus for throwing stones at an Israeli vehicle. The judge, Major Gid'on Gordon, reserves, fined him 3,000 shekels and put him on probation for 3 months.

A charge sheet was submitted yesterday to the Nabulus military court against the chairman of the Bi'r Zayt University Student Council.

(Nayif 'Ala Nayif Sustat) was detained by security forces and his detention was extended yesterday until the completion of legal proceedings against him on charges of holding contacts with a hostile organization.

Peres, Shamir Discuss Unity Government

TA161919 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] We have a report about high-level contacts to establish a national unity government. This week Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres met at the home of Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor. The meeting was kept a complete secret. Our correspondent on party affairs Nisim Mish'al reports that at the meeting the two also discussed, inter alia, the possibility of establishing a national unity government. Nisim Mish'al reports the following details about the meeting:

It was initiated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir; Likud ministers and Labor Party figures did not know about the meeting which took place, as stated [as heard] on Monday night, 14 November. Our correspondent adds that this was not the first meeting between the pair since the talks between the Likud and the Alignment to establish a national unity government were held a few weeks ago. At the end of Monday's meeting, Shamir and Peres agreed to meet again within the next few days in order to thrash out the problem of establishing a national unity government.

Peres Rejects Unity Government

TA171241 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Shim'on Peres has said that the Alignment does not intend to join a national unity government. Speaking to Labor Party Center members at Bet Berl, Peres noted that the prime minister had raised this proposal at their meeting at the beginning of this week. However, in his opinion, the situation has not changed since the Labor Party Bureau decided about 1 month ago not to establish a national unity government. Therefore, Peres emphasized, he does not see the need to raise such a proposal in the party's institutions.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that after the Labor Party chairman made this statement, center members calmed down and they began discussing the results of the municipal elections.

Finance Minister Outlines Austerity Measures

TA162034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad has said that in thecoming year the government aims to reduce wages by about 10 percent and added that this is an essential measure to improve the balance of payments. Cutting the balance of payments deficit is now the main objective, while cutting inflation, which reached a record rate last month, will only be obtained gradually and slowly with the aid of basic moves such as cutting consumption. The finance minister was speaking in a television interview.

Among the objectives the government is aiming at, the minister cited cutting imports and increasing exports; decreasing private consumption by 7-10 percent per person; restricting credit and decreasing assets held by the public; lowering incomes and decreasing public outlays, both those of the government and outlays on subsidies. The finance minister thinks that the pockets of unemployment will take the form of workers leaving services and the business sector. Under no circumstances will the current situation resemble the depression of 17 years ago, since industry is prepared to absorb additional workers. He stressed that a certain section of the workers will be forced to undergo professional retraining.

Arens Warns Against Disclosing Military Secrets

TA161654 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 NOV 83 p 3

[Report by 'Amos Ben-Vered]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens announced yesterday that following certain statements made by officers who were interviewed by the media involving possible violations of the law, it has been decided to warn such officers in the future. If this does not help, they will be dealt with according to law.

The defense minister said that "we have decided to take measures... in order to prevent the repetition of such cases in the future: every officer retiring from the IDF will sign a document which spells out the law forbidding the disclosure of military secrets... the IDF spokesman made public in the newspapers the bans specified in the law... in the future, whenever fears arise that the law might have been violated the case will be settled by a military court, and the violators will be punished."

Arens stated this in response to MK Mikha'el Bar-Zohar's motion in which he expressed concern over IDF generals who harm the motivation of IDF soldiers and disclose military secrets in interviews with newspapers. Retiring officers should not be prohibited from taking political stands, but not while disclosing classified information in the process, as was done, according to him, by Major Generals Yehoshu'a Sagi, Avigdor Ben-Gal, and Brigadier General Dov Tamari. He said that former Chief of Staff Rafa'el Eytan is responsible for this negative trend.

Importance of Agreement With Lebanon Stressed

TA161532 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Nov 83 p 8

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Damascus' Red Lines"]

[Text] Syria's SAM-9's, which U.S. intelligence has just now discovered deployed in Lebanon, were in Lebanon earlier too and destroyed by the Israeli Air Force.

The novelty is that this time these missiles are threatening U.S. aircraft flying over Beirut and are not targeted against Israeli aircraft alone. There is also novelty in the fact that these missiles, like the SAM-5's and SS-21's — purchased from the Soviet Union and financed by Saudi Arabia, the U.S. protectorate — endanger the well-being of U.S. pilots. Now that Saudi Arabia has already invested $2 billion in the Syrian-Soviet missile deal and another $2 billion for additional arms procurement from the Soviet Union, the Syrian Government can threaten the United States and declare: "If the Americans want to take over the region, they should know that Syria has red lines that the Americans must not cross, and if they do so they will pay very heavily for this."

The Syrians do not define those "red lines" that the Americans must not cross.

In the 1970's, when Israel and Syria, via U.S. mediation, reached an understanding about the "red line" in Lebanon, this line was not accurately demarcated from the geographical point of view, but it was accepted that the Syrians would not go south of the Litani and that Israel would not interfere in anything taking place north of the Litani. Later, contradictory interpretations did nevertheless arise regarding the location of the "red line."

What exactly do the Syrians propose to the Americans? This is not known but it is clear that the Syrians want Saudi Arabia, which financed the purchase of the Soviet missiles, to mediate between Damascus and Washington, with Syria dictating the conditions to the United States.

In the course of the negotiations over ousting the terrorists and the Syrian Army from Beirut, some Reagan administration officials praised and welcomed the Saudi mediation and even forgot for the moment that had it not been for the Israeli military pressure, the Syrian Army would not have evacuated Beirut. The satisfaction with Saudi mediation was so strong that U.S. officials began to believe that with the power of this dollar-oiled mediation Syria would agree to evacuate its army from all of Lebanon.

This hope has proved to be false. The Syrians absorbed the Saudi money, purchased lots of Soviet arms with it, and disavowed all the promises they had made. Now, not only are they unwilling to evacuate their army from Lebanon, but they are also threatening U.S. aircraft and ships off the Lebanese shore with their artillery and missiles and are even warning the Americans not to cross the "red lines."

This type of warning was not born in Damascus. The Soviet stamp is imprinted on it and it was not in vain that the Syrian foreign minister was summoned to Moscow for coordination talks with his Soviet counterpart. The joint statement issued by Gromyko and Khaddam concluding the Moscow talks did not deal with 'Arafat's fate, as one might have thought from reports by the Moscow news agencies, but with guidelines for the common policy in Lebanon, as follows: Cancellation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, removal of the multinational force from Lebanon, and the IDF's withdrawal to the international border. In this joint statement Moscow then again presented its demand [tevi'a] to be a partner to any settlement in the Middle East.

The "amen" of Damascus to this Soviet demand [tevi'a] was padded with the dollars Saudi Arabia put at Syria's disposal for the financing of a large arms deal, and it is by virtue of that deal that Syria can now threaten Israel and the United States with war-like moves.

Some believe that Hafiz al-Asad's "appendicitis" this week saved the Israel-Lebanon agreement for if the Syrian president had not needed an urgent operation, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil would have arrived in Damascus and submitted to the Syrian ultimatum to cancel the agreement with Israel.

However, in light of the struggle between the two superpowers, as shown by the Khaddam-Gromyko joint statement, the importance of the existence of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is not limited to Israel only.

The cancellation of the agreement may deal a blow to the United States and shake the entire Lebanese system in fact. It is not only the Lebanese Government which signed the agreement; the Lebanese parliament too ratified it and its cancellation will constitute a slap in the face for parliament, expressing Lebanon's loss of independence. Under such circumstances Lebanon will become part of the Syrian-Soviet control zone within the "red lines" boundaries. The United States cannot afford to have such a situation develop.

The Reagan administration has reached the conclusion that any harm to Israel's regional status may precipitate the danger of war. Clear testimony to this was given by Leslie Gelb, *THE NEW YORK TIMES* correspondent (a former assistant U.S. secretary of state), who last week analyzed the U.S. secretary of state's efforts to strengthen relations with Israel by saying the following:

"Administration officials sent a message to Jerusalem that if Damascus views Israel as a 'paper tiger,' Syria may make a mistake in its calculations and launch a war." The message is clear. Israel must prove to Damascus that its warnings are not idle threats and that Syrian provocations may be damaging to Damascus. The United States wants to strengthen Israel's status so as to deter Syria from a war-like adventure.

The Saudi mediators encourage Syria instead of restraining it. The United States is then left to take care of strengthening Israel so as to deter Damascus. Damascus, otherwise, will determine where its "red line" in the region is and this will also be the "red line" of the Soviet Union.

Main Points of Kimche's Talks in Cairo Reviewed

TA161623 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Nov 83 p 9

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Egypt is Loosening the Tightrope"]

[Text] Even in a marriage of convenience, the couple sometimes make a temporary show of affection. The invitation of Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche to visit Cairo was one of those rare signs of affection or embraces which do not herald more than estranged domestic peace. Six years after Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem it is possible to say that great friendship did not develop between Israel and its southern neighbor. Optimists would say that one may stress that the glass is half-full, not half-empty: There is no war, not even an Egyptian threat of war; the security arrangements are meticulously kept; the borders are open; Egypt has become Israel's top oil supplier; and a new bus line between Elat and Cairo is being inaugurated.

Kimche and the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Elyaqim Rubinstein, did not go to Egypt to pat the backs of Butrus Ghali and Hasan 'Ali. In Jerusalem, as much as in Washington, the disappointment and frustration resulting from the cool wind blowing from Cairo is no longer concealed. After a long period of no dialogue, the Egyptians agreed to loosen the tightrope a bit. Observers believe that President Mubarak feels that this rope has been too tight and it should be loosened up a little. It is no accident that Mubarak decided this so shortly after his visit to Washington. President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz told him that the United States, which mediated the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, is not pleased with his behavior toward Israel. Mubarak did not loosen the tightrope completely; he is afraid an invitation to a senior Israeli minister or the return of his ambassador to Tel Aviv will push him away from the Arab world again. The Foreign Ministry director general visiting Cairo — well, this is not exactly pleasant but not terrible either. It is assessed in Jerusalem that this is the sacrifice Mubarak is prepared to make at this stage on behalf of relations with Israel. Keeping love on the back burner may be useful for Egyptian interests, especially vis-a-vis its relations with the patron in Washington.

The reason for choosing Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i as the first minister invited to Egypt since the outbreak of the Lebanon war should be viewed mainly in terms of the pragmatic-economic sphere and not as a desire to melt the ice a little: The oil agreements bring in many important dollars from Israel.

The airlines are operating between the two capitals and the hotels welcome the Israelis who arrive with full pockets, but this is all there is to it. Egypt is then maintaining normalization where this nets them hard currency. When it appears that the temperatures have gone down too much, Mubarak issues an instruction or makes a gesture which is like giving aspirin to a cancer patient.

Since he was invited to Cairo, Kimche arrived there equipped with thick files:

A. The first file — bilateral issues. Israel claims that the dialogue between the leaders of the two countries should be renewed, as is customary between friendly countries. It is about time that the Egyptian ambassador returns to Tel Aviv. At the time, Mubarak promised the United States and Israel that the ambassador would return immediately after the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. Tomorrow the agreement will be 6 months old and the Egyptian ambassador's office is still empty. The Israeli Embassy staffers in Cairo are boycotted. Mubarak keeps postponing a meeting with Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sason and the Egyptian press ignores his presence. The Egyptians now claim that before they send their ambassador back to Tel Aviv the disputes over the Tabah issue and the Canada camp should be resolved. Egypt is rejecting an Israeli demand [derisha] to hold the deliberations in Jerusalem and Cairo, but even if this obstacle is removed Mubarak will still be able to pull out the proven hurdle of the continuing settlements.

Kimche showed Egyptian foreign minister and Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli caricatures and articles that are regularly published in the Egyptian press. Kimche did not "buy" the explanations along the lines of: "What can we do? Our press is free...." The Foreign Ministry director general talked about Egyptian importers who were so harassed when they tried to obtain licenses to import goods from Israel that they had to turn to different markets. The trading between the two countries, just like cultural cooperation, is far from the spirit of the agreements signed. They hardly exist in fact. Upon his return to Israel Kimche was only able to report about an Egyptian hint of promises for an improvement in bilateral relations.

B. The second file — Autonomy. Egypt continues to condition the renewal of talks on the participation of Jordanian and Palestinian representatives. Kimche mentioned that Israel is willing to renew the contacts on the future of the residents of the territories and even coopt their chosen representatives in the talks. Israel, as known, is not prepared to sit down at the negotiating table with PLO representatives and Jordan has not yet accepted the invitations to join the Camp David process. A number of additional reports have thus been added to the autonomy file now.

C. The third file — Lebanon and the Middle East situation. Kimche exchanged views with his hosts on Lebanon's future in light of the increasing Syrian pressure. Egypt should be interested in having additional Arab countries join the peace process so as not to remain isolated in its cold romance with Israel. However, Egypt cannot afford not to attack Israel for its continued presence in southern Lebanon, even if Kimche declares Israel's readiness to leave there together with Syria.

Under normal conditions, the visit of the Foreign Ministry director general to Cairo would not have made headlines and prompted commentaries. It is nearly 6 years since As-Sadat visited Jerusalem but a little encouragement is drawn here even from a promise that Kimche's visit will be followed by a reciprocal visit by a senior official of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. "We will hold onto any flicker of hope, it is said in Jerusalem, but we will not do so by crawling on our hands and knees."

ALGERIA

Palestinian Leader Received by Bendjedid
LD162016 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah was received this afternoon at the Presidential Palace by President Chadli Bendjedid, head of state and secretary general of the party; and Dr Ahmed Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs. Brother president also received this afternoon at the Presidential Palace Mr Nabih Barri, chairman of the Lebanese Amal Movement. The two meetings were attended by Brother (Abdelkader Benkaci), official attached to the presidential office.

EL MOUDJAHID Reports on Bendjedid Visit to Italy
PM161145 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 13 Nov 83 p 3

[Djamel Benzaghou report: "Positive and Practical Results"]

[Excerpts] The official visit to Italy by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, is part of an overall approach in our country's policy and has produced positive and practical results at the economic and political levels. The head of state, who was accopmpanied by a large delegation, was anxious to stress from his first talks with Italian President Sandro Pertini that "relations between Algeria and Italy, which are undergoing a radical change, must now adopt the ambitions and satisfy the requirements of our pledge for dialogue and consultation." The talks between the two delegation, conducted in a new spirit, produced good results, and the Italian side emphasized the "long and cordial conversation between the two heads of state."

Fiat Chairman Gianni Agnelli and National Hydrocarbons Agency Chairman Franco Reviglio, prominent members of the business world, were granted audiences by President Chadli Bendjedid and at the end of the talks made no secret of their optimism about the new prospects which now exist for cooperation between our two countries.

All Italian economic and financial circles also welcome this first visit by the Algerian head of state since our country regained independence, and hope to see medium-term and long-term contracts quickly concluded, also hoping to see the foundation laid for "harmonization of the two countries' economic policies." Stressing the importance of this official visit to Italy, Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi, member of the Central Committee and minister of planning and national development, said just before the Algerian delegation left Rome, that "in the economic policy sphere, and on the basis of the two countries' mutual interest, we have been able to secure real guarantees on the transfer of technology for the first time." "We have also," the minister added, "now gone beyond the framework of simple commercial transactions and are approaching cooperation in a comprehensive way, in the framework of our planned development objectives."

The gas pipeline supplying Algerian gas to Italy is cited by Italian circles as a symbol of real North-South cooperation and an expression of the two countries' common political will to seek interdependent development among nations. Mr Belkacem Nabi, member of the Central Committee and minister of energy and the petrochemical industry, stated for his part: "This visit has given us an opportunity to clarify our concept of cooperation with a country like Italy, which is an important Mediterranean partner for our country, and to draw the general outlines of an increasingly important and broad cooperation between our two countries." With regard to the results of President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to Italy at the political level, both sides stressed agreement on major international problems, especially on the African Continent, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Cypriot Issue
LD162212 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Algerian Foreign Ministry made a statement this evening saying that the unilateral announcement establishing an independent Turkish Cypriot state constitutes an infringement of the rules and regulations of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement and of the continuous efforts currently being undertaken to find a political solution that satisfies the Cypriot people. The statement added that Algeria affirms its firm commitment to the independence and sovereignty and nonaligned status of the Republic of Cyprus. Algeria — as chairman of the Cyprus contact group of the Nonaligned Movement, which always works for respecting these basic principles and making them the firm basis for the necessary political settlement — today calls again for a responsible dialogue in the legitimate interests of the two Cypriot sides. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said finally: In this respect the new suggestions by the UN secretary general, which were praised by the international community and the Republic of Cyprus in particular, must be the basis for the necessary continuation of such dialogue.

LIBYA

Jabir Told Al-Asad 'Rapidly Recovering'
LD160944 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has telephoned Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to inquire about President Hafiz al-Asad's health. Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam assured Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir about President Hafiz al-Asad's health and informed him that he is rapidly recovering and that he is now in good health.

JANA on U.S.-Israeli Cooperation on Lebanon
LD161104 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Nov (JANA) — The enemy's prime minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that America is displaying greater determination to cooperate with Israel and that the two sides have common interests in Lebanon. Shamir's words came in a statement published by the American *TIME* magazine and broadcast by the official Voice of America. JANA's political editor has commented on this statement made by the Zionist official. He said:

The prime minister of the enemy meant what he said in the statement, although he deliberately avoided clarifying and specifying the common aims of the Zionist enemy and America. By mentioning Lebanon by name in particular, as a country in which these aims must be achieved, he in fact added nothing new, but he was endorsing proofs and facts which became apparent through the common action of the Zionist enemy and America. At the same time in this statement the prime minister of the enemy was only recalling the strategic alliance signed between the United States and Israel in Washington on 30 November 1981, the alliance which emerged to crown the development of the physical relationship between America and the Zionist enemy and to translate the reality of the coincidence of interests and aims for which the Camp David accords paved a suitable launching pad in the Arab homeland.

More than once attention has been drawn to the seriousness of this agreement, and it has been stressed that it not only raises the military and economic capability of the enemy but it goes beyond this to involving the enemy in the American military strategic plans implemented by Reagan's administration to impose hegemony through the use of force.

Despite this, that is, despite the proclamation of the military alliance between America, a major power, and the racist entity which is in a state of war with the Arab nation, it is deeply regretted that some have not yet realized that America is an active ally of the Zionist enemy and that some still do gamble on American policy and alliance with America without consciously realizing that America has taken into account its alliance [with Israel] in achieving its strategic aims of dominating the Arab homeland and fully turning it into a zone of American influence, without considering or distinguishing between those who have made these aims possible for it or those who oppose and challenged them, that is, that the American-Zionist strategic alliance requires the imposition of the precept of realizing the mutual interests and aims of the two parties and of serving their major interests.

Hence it is not strange for Yitzhaq Shamir to point out without any ambiguity that America and the Zionist enemy have common aims in Lebanon. This signal does not only apply to this Arab country which is being altered in the shadow of American-Zionist presence to be an entrance for the American and Zionist forces in the direction of other positions in the Arab homeland. Hence we must seriously consider the questions before us about the future of the Arab homeland in the shadow of this imperialist-Zionist assault, since the American Administration, which is headed by a power-mad man, is not satisfied with feverishly seeking to impose its military domination but is also endeavoring to directly bring in the Zionist enemy as a partner in the plan for military domination over the Arab homeland. In fact, we must consider the American-Zionist strategy a warning to all of us: Either we challenge it with full force or fully submit to this strategy. We do not imagine that American imperialism will relinquish its aggressive plans, as we do not imagine that the Zionist enemy will refrain from his designs and will limit them only within the borders of Lebanon or Egypt.

KUNA Report of Contacts With Egypt Denied

LD161531 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] KUNA, citing informed diplomatic sources in Rabat, said yesterday that alleged contacts were held between Libya and Egypt. It is important for us here to confirm that this is totally untrue, that the Jamahiriyah did not have any contacts with the Egyptian regime at the political level, that there is no hope for any meeting so long as the Egyptian regime has sold itself to the devil, that Libya does not recognize the talks and meetings which take place between officials in Arab countries and those of the Egyptian regime, and that it has not stopped denouncing those meetings,considering them as belittling of the Arab nation and the Arab summits' resolutions. The Egyptian regime has left the Arab consensus, betrayed the cause, and committed the ultimate sin against the Arab nation.

Libya not only adopts such a stance toward meetings with the Egyptian regimes and any regime that sinks to surrender to the enemy, it also warns that 1984, as the brother leader told JANA, will be the year of self-destruction after the failure of the Arab nation to confront its enemies. It can only search for itself, to manifest itself by itself, and purify its instruments in order to stop the enemy. We warn once again that 1984 will be the year of confronting the Arab self which failed with its rulers. Therefore, the Jamahiriyah still believes, and will continue to do so, that the justifications for the boycott of the Egyptian regime, based on the resolution of the Baghdad summit, continue to exist, and that any attempt to restore the Egyptian regime is an intended violation of the pan-Arab obligations, as the present regime in Egypt is still linked to the Zionist enemy.

MOROCCO

Reportage on Visit of Arab League's Chedli Klibi

Arrives in Casablanca

LD161055 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Nov 83

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Morocco this evening. He made a statement to the radio correspondent in which he said:

[Begin recording] I have not had an opportunity of visiting the Kingdom of Morocco for some time now, and I think it will be useful, and it is my duty to consult with his majesty on current political issues in the Arab arena. I also wish to hear his majesty's opinion on matters which concern joint Arab action, primarily the Arab summit which as is known will be held in the Saudi Kingdom. [end recording]

Klibi was received at Muhammad V Airport in Casablanca by Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Ahmad Hammud.

Received by King Hassan

LD161618 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] At the royal palace in Rabat today His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, who arrived in Morocco yesterday. The meeting was attended by Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta.

Makes Departure Statement

LD171030 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] King Hassan II this afternoon received at the royal court in Rabat Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, who arrived in Morocco yesterday. The audience was attended by minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, M'hamed Boucetta. Klibi left Rabat this evening. At the Sale airport lounge, Chedli Klibi made a statement. He said:

[Begin Klibi recording] Today I had the honor of meeting with King Hassan II. It was natural for me to review with him during the audience the various Arab conditions as I said yesterday. I wish to point out in particular that his majesty the king assured me of Morocco's determination to contribute toward all efforts aimed at insuring the continuation of Arab endeavors without any halt despite all the difficulties. This is out of his belief that the continuation of the joint Arab action insures greater ability for our countries to overcome our internal obstacles and face up to external challenges. [end recording] The Arab League secretary general was seen off by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi and a number of other personalities.

Niger Foreign Minister Ends Visit to Morocco

PM161057 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 12 Nov 83 p 2

[MAP report: "An Additional Step Has Been Taken"]

[Text] Rabat — Mr Daouda Diallo, Niger minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Rabat-Sale Airport Thursday morning [10 November] after a 2-day visit to Morocco during which he handed Prime Minister Maati Bouabid a message to His Majesty King Hassan II from President Seyni Kountche. In a statement to the press Mr Daouda Diallo said that during his visit to Morocco he had "extremely important talks with Mr Maati Bouabid and with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi." "Every time I make a visit to Morocco, we've happily taken an additional step forward in the framework of bilateral cooperation," the Niger foreign minister said. He expressed the hope that there will be a meeting of the joint cooperation commission, created 18 months ago during President Seyni Kountche's visit to Morocco, with a view to examining means of giving new dynamism to that cooperation and stepping up all kinds of exchanges between the two countries.

With regard to the cultural sphere, Mr Daouda Diallo recalled, "a large number of Nigerois students are studying in Morocco, benefiting from the Moroccan people's know-how, knowledge, and generosity." The Niger minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who recalled that his "talks with the Moroccan officials also related to current economic and political problems," said that "President Seyni Kountche's message to His Majesty King Hassan II relates only to Moroccan-Nigerois relations." Mr Daouda Diallo was seen off by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi and by several other prominent people.

Party Affirms 'Absolute Support' for PLO

LD162228 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, 16 Nov (MAP) — The Central Committee of the Moroccan Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP] affirmed its absolute and complete support for the PLO and its legitimate leadership as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In a resolution on the armed aggression against the Palestinian revolution in Tripoli, which was adopted after last Sunday's meeting, the committee condemned "the armed aggression against the PLO and its legitimate leadership," and also condemned "the explicit conspiracy in whose framework and for which this aggression was carried out."

The Central Committee considered that "the independence of the PLO in its political decision and in the direction of its struggle are the main guarantees of the Palestinian revolution's strength and vitality," and it appealed to "the officials of the two fraternal countries, Syria and Libya, to stop the attack against the Palestinian people in Tripoli, end the siege, and respect the will of the Palestinian people concerning the independence of its political will."

The USFP Central Committee appealed to "all the struggling Arab popular forces and to true Arab liberation movements all over the Arab world to work toward closing their ranks and coordinating their initiatives, to create a new popular dynamism to support the revolution of the Palestinian people, and protect its revolutionary achievements and unity of struggle."

SUDAN

Ethiopian MIGs Bomb Eastern Sudan Area

JN171109 Khartoum SUNA in English 1056 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 17 (SUNA) — One person was killed and nine others injured, four of them in serious condition, when an Ethiopian MIG jet fighter bombed a commercial truck in Tokar, eastern region of Sudan, this November 13 an official source announced here today.

The source stated that two Ethiopian MIG fighters, on November 13, violated the sound barrier of Tokar before bombing the truck. During the past few days the Ethiopian fighters carried out regular violations of Sudan's aerial space, the source said.

A number of Ethiopian jets flew over Kassala, the capital of the eastern region and another MIG fighter violated the aerial space over (Korashi) 24 a village in the AlJazirah area in central Sudan this November 11, the source announced.

Further on Ethiopian Violations

JN171250 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1142 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA) — One person was killed and nine others injured, four of them seriously, when an Ethiopian MIG dropped a bomb on a truck inside Sudanese territory in the Tokar area of east Sudan on 13 November. On the same day, two MIGs broke the sound barrier over the Tokar area before the bomb was dropped. An official source said that during the past few days, Ethiopian planes had violated the Sudanese airspace and that on 11 November several Ethiopian planes broke the sound barrier over Kassala, a provincial capital in eastern Sudan. Another MIG violated Sudan's airspace and reached the (Korashi) 24 area in the Al Jazirah Province, central Sudan. The source said that this indicates Ethiopia's involvement in the plot hatched by Libya and the Soviet Union against Sudan.

In a statement to SUNA, the Sudanese official source said that Sudan has been patient in the hope that the Ethiopian military government would realize the importance of stability in the region and the need to maintain good relations between the two neighboring countries and respect the rules and charters of international and regional organizations. The source added: However, it seems that some sides have misunderstood Sudan's stand and have exploited it to the utmost. Sudan is well known for respecting the rights of others, but Sudan will never yield a grain of sand from its soil and will not allow those who play with fire to continue their actions. After realizing that Ethiopia has become a cat's-paw in implementing the communist Libyan-USSR plot, Sudan affirms that it will answer [these actions] in the way it deems proper in order to preserve its sovereignty in the air and on the land.

People's Assembly Cables Support to 'Arafat

JN161937 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Nov (SUNA) — In its session today, the People's Assembly under its chairman 'Iz ad-Din as-Sayyid decided to send the following cable of support to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat:

Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

We members of the Sudanese People's Assembly unanimously declare our firm support for your heroic stands against the attempts to fragment the Arab nation, partition Lebanon, contain the PLO, and dominate the free Palestinian decisionmaking. As representatives of the Sudanese people, we affirm our confidence in your wise leadership and awareness of the armed struggle movement of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, until victory is achieved by restoring the usurped land and the legitimate rights to establish a Palestinian state. We appeal to all honest people in the world to stand at your side in support of right and justice.

Kenyan, Tanzanian, Ugandan Leaders Meet in Arusha

Delegations Named

EA161212 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Arusha — The Tanzanian delegation to the east African summit meeting includes Minister of Foreign Affairs Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, Minister of Transport and Communications Ndugu John Malecela, Minister of Trade Ndugu Mustafa Nynganyi, Minister of Finance Ndugu Cleopya Msuya, and Minister of Justice and Attorney General Ndugu Joseph Warioba.

President Obote is accompanied by Minister of Cooperation Sam Tewungwa, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Stephan Ariko, Minister of Rehabilitation Masette-Kuuya, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kesinyakimwe.

The Kenyan delegation includes Vice President Mwai Kibaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs Elijah Mwangale, Minister of Energy and Regional Development Biwott, Minister of Transport and Communications Kosgey, and Minister of Finance and Planning Professor Saitoti.

Border Reopening Recommended

EA170550 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The three east African heads of state meeting in Arusha, Tanzania today ended their formal talks on the distribution of the assets of the former East African Community and also recommended that the border between Kenya and Tanzania should be reopened as soon as possible. The three leaders, President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and Milton Obote of Uganda, said that the reopening of the border will accelerate trade between Kenya, Tanzania, and other central and southern African states. The three heads have also agreed on the recommendations of the mediator, Dr Victor Umbricht.

The three presidents are due to sign a joint communique tonight or tomorrow morning. Respective ministers from the three countries were meeting from 6 p.m. to put final touches to the communique.

Border Reopened; Communique Issued

EA170604 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Arusha — The Tanzanian-Kenyan border was opened last night. Announcing this, President Nyerere said that with immediate effect, transport vehicles can cross the border, which was closed in 1977, by adhering to normal Immigration Department regulations.

Announcing the news in Arusha after a meeting of the three east African countries, Mwalimu Nyerere said that Kenya can now make use of Tanzanian port and rail services for its trade and tourism activities. Mwalimu also told newsmen last night that the Kenyan and Tanzanian leaders have directed ministers in charge of trade and communications to reach agreement in that sector quickly.

The Tanzanian-Kenyan border was closed by Tanzania 6 years ago, shortly after the breakup of the East African Community. During yesterday's meeting the east African leaders also agreed on sharing the assets and liabilities of the East African Community. The decision was reached after 6 years of talks on the issue.

Agreement on sharing the assets and liabilities of the community was reached following proposals made by the World Bank mediator, Dr Umbricht, which provided the basis of yesterday's talks in Arusha. The chairman of the meeting, Mwalimu Nyerere, said that under the guidelines of the sharing, Kenya will get 42 percent of the assets, while Tanzania will get 32 percent, and Uganda will get 26 percent of the assets of the East African Community. The percentages also concern sharing the payments of the community's liabilities.

It was also agreed that since Tanzania and Kenya had more assets than Uganda, the two countries should pay compensation of more than 3,482,000,000 shillings to Uganda at rates applicable in July 1977. It was also agreed that Tanzania and Kenya pay Uganda interest at the rate of 7 percent annually for the amount of compensation. According to a joint communique issued last night, the three presidents also agreed on sharing the long-term liabilities, including issuing grants for payment of pension to the former employees of the East African Community.

According to the communique, the presidents also agreed that the Soroti Flying School in Uganda, the East African Development Bank, the East African Universities Council, the East and Southern African Management College in Arusha, and the East African Community Library Services should be run as joint east African institutions.

Further on Communique

EA170937 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The 1-day heads of state meeting held in Arusha has successfully ended, and a joint communique by the presidents of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda was issued at midnight last night.

According to the communique the three presidents agreed on the formula for the division of the assets as proposed by the mediator, and Kenya gets 42 percent of equity shares, Tanzania 32 percent, while Uganda gets 26 percent. It was noted that according to this formula Kenya and Tanzania have excess assets over the equity shares in Uganda. The three presidents, therefore, agreed that Kenya and Tanzania will pay compensation to Uganda amounting to $191,136,000 at the rate of the dollar as at July 1977.

They also agreed that from the day the agreement comes into effect Kenya and Tanzania will pay interest at the rate of 7 percent per annum on the outstanding amount to be paid to Uganda as compensation. The method of payment of this compensation will be in convertable currency, provision of goods and or services, provision of existing, or new facilities, or capital assets by Tanzania and Kenya to Uganda.

The heads of state also agreed that on the decision they have taken at this meeting they have instructed their ministers to meet and finalize the agreement for the division of the assets and liabilities of the East African Community as soon as possible but not later than 31 March 1984. The presidents also instructed their responsible ministers to meet and work out concrete arrangements for future cooperation between them and the east African region.

It was also decided that the following institutions operate as joint East African institutions for common services. These are: Soroti Flying School, East African Development Bank, East African Inter-University Committee, East and Southern Management Training Institute, and the East African Community Libraries Services.

The communique also announces that the Kenya-Tanzania border will be opened immediately. This, the communique goes on, is in the spirit of cooperation and understanding prevailing between the two countries and peoples. In the meantime, Kenya can make immediate use of ports and railway facilities of Tanzania for her transit trade, while air transportation services and tourism will be worked on without delay by ministers responsible in each country.

BENIN

Equatorial Guinean Minister Comments on Visit

AB161115 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 15 Nov 83

[Text] President Mathieu Kerekou this afternoon had talks at the presidential palace with Marcelino Nguema Onguene, the minister of foreign affairs of Equatorial Guinea. The Equatorial Guinean foreign affairs minister was introduced at the presidential office by Alidou Ba Boukary, minister of state for farms, stockbreeding, and fishing, representing the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Marcelino Nguema Onguene told Sylvestre Zomahou that he conveyed to the head of state a message from President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

[Begin recording in Spanish with sentence by sentence French translation] [Onguene] We brought a message from President Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea to President Kerekou. But apart from the message, we had talks with President Kerekou on how to strengthen bilateral relations between Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Benin.

[Zomahou] Can we know the contents of the message?

[Onguene] Relations between Equatorial Guinea and Benin cover several areas. The message we conveyed to President Kerekou explained why the country decided to join the international economic and financial organizations of Central Africa.

[Zomahou] We know that your country has just joined the franc zone. Could you tell us why it did so?

[Onguene] As you know, at a meeting held in Lagos, it was said that African countries should come together to form economic groups. This is one reason Equatorial Guinea made that decision. Another reason is that the country felt somehow isolated in the region and, economically speaking, it has to join the franc zone to ensure cooperation links with the other countries.

[Zomahou] Let us come back to the relations between our two countries. Could you tell us how they are?

[Onguene] Generally they are good but we think we have to strengthen them further in order to enter into common development agreements. You know that in Equatorial Guinea there are a lot of Beninese, and there are also some Guineans who come to Benin, but this does not mean that there are exchanges of experience between the governments. This is why we are now trying to carry out such exchanges in specific fields at the governmental level.

[Zomahou] Could you tell us about efforts on both sidesto realize those relations as you say?

[Onguene] [Words indistinct] between the two governments to strengthen our relations; for example, the presidents of Benin and Equatorial Guinea have met several times at meetings of heads of state abroad. Furthermore, many delegations have been exchanged between the two countries, that is to say, a delegation from Equatorial Guinea went to Benin and vice versa. An example of such delegations is the one I am currently leading to Benin. [end recording]

GHANA

Statement Issued on Turkish Cypriot Independence

AB170722 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The government has issued a statement on the unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish minority of Cyprus. It says it views with great concern the action of the Turkish Cypriots. The statement says the declaration is the culmination of efforts on the part of Turkey to maintain a permanent division of the island and a complete separation of Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The decision of the Turkish Cypriot minority puts in permanent jeopardy the peaceful coexistence of Turks and Greeks on the island, and of Turkey and Greece as member states of the international community. It undercuts all decisions and efforts of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Commonwealth to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus. The statement says Ghana is committed to the principle of a unified and independent Cyprus free of external interference, and further believes in the resolution of communal differences by peaceful dialogue. The statement hopes that the Turkish Cypriot minority will consider its decision and work for the unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

EDF Mining Modernization Loan Reported

AB161515 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Ghana is to receive about 156 million cedis from the EEC. The loan from the European Development Fund is for the modernization and rehabilitation of the mining facilities of the Ghana National Manganese Corporation at Nusta, in the Western Region. The loan, under the provisions of the Lome Convention relating to risk capital, will be managed by the European Investment Bank. It is envisaged that it will assist in the restoration of the mine's production to former levels through the purchase of new machinery and equipment as well as the upgrading of existing facilities. The loan will be repaid in 25 years at an interest rate of two percent.

Yellow Fever Outbreak; Plane Sent to Upper Volta

AB162040 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] A Ghana Air Force plane has flown several boxes of yellow fever vaccines to Tamale to fight an outbreak of the disease in the Northern, Upper East, and Upper Western Regions. A spokesman of UNICEF, which donated the drugs, has said that Ministry of Health personnel will start an immunization exercise in the area. Meanwhile, the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has ordered that the Air Force plane should proceed to Upper Volta to engage in a spraying exercise. This is in furtherance of the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Ghana and Upper Volta.

LIBERIA

Lebanese Envoy Calls for International Conference

AB162130 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Lebanese ambassador to Liberia, Mr Moustapha Robert, has called for an international conference on Lebanon involving the United States, France, the Soviet Union, and the Middle East countries to help resolve the conflict in the war-torn country. He said the present conflict in Lebanon did not exist among Lebanese themselves but as a direct result of interference in the country's internal affairs by the big powers and other Middle Eastern countries, including Israel.

Ambassador Robert made the call in Monrovia today when he paid a courtesy call on Information Minister Dr Peter Naigow at his Capitol Hill office here in Monrovia. On Liberian-Lebanese relations, Ambassador Robert lauded the friendly ties between the two countries and said he would try to boost trade relations between Liberia and Lebanon. Ambassador Robert said possible Lebanese investment in Liberia will be in the agriculture, mining, and wood industries and disclosed that some Lebanese business executives will be visitng the country shortly to study the possibility of exporting Liberian wood. For his part, Minister Naigow welcomed the Lebanese envoy to the Information Ministry and hoped relations between Lebanon and Liberia would be strengthened during Ambassador Robert's tenure.

'Stringent Economic Measures' Announced

AB162205 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Liberian Government has announced stringent economic measures intended to bring relief to the economy. The measures include a freeze on duty exemption, except those provided by concession agreements, investment intensive codes, bilateral arrangements, and international treaties and conventions. The Liberian Government measures, which have been approved by the head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel Kanyon Doe, also include a freeze on foreign travels of government and public corporation personnel. Only those travels which will bring direct economic and financial benefits to the people of Liberia will be allowed to go ahead. Absolute freeze on the purchase of vehicles and transport equipment was also announced. Immediate reinforcement of revenue-collection measures and no deferred payments as well as customs drawbacks, certificate arrangements will be honored.

A Finance Ministry release also said that all government ministries, autonomous agencies, and public corporations are required to immediately defer the execution of purchase in a magnitude of $100,00 and construction contracts not yet executed. Finance Minister Jones, who signed the release, said all requests for duty exemption are to be channelled through the minister of finance in his capacity as chairman of the Economic and Financial Management Committee for consideration of the committee and recommendation to the head of state if approved.

Temporary Ban Placed on Imported Rice

AB162210 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] A temporary ban has been placed on the importation of rice into the country because of the influx of rice on the Liberian market. According to a release from the Ministry of Commerce, Minister David Dwanyen said all business houses holding permits for the importation of rice are advised to suspend such importation until further notice. Recently, the minister of internal affairs, Edward Sackor, called on LPMC [Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation] to help sell the huge quantity of locally produced rice alongside the imported rice. At the time, Minister Sackor said such a move would encourage Liberian farmers to produce more rice in the future.

Meanwhile, the president of the Liberian Marketing Association, Counselor Ignatius Weir, has said that the LPMC current stock of rice was insufficient to feed the Liberian people. Mr Weir observed that after the present stock of rice is exhausted, starvation would be inevitable as government will not be in a position to immediately import rice. The Marketing Association president made the statement at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia today in reaction to an appeal made early this week by the LPMC management to government to impose a temporary ban on the importation of rice. The LPMC management said this would enable the corporation to sell its stock of locally produced rice. Counselor Weir, who recalled the problems associated with the scarcity of rice on the Liberian market, said the appeal by LPMC did not represent the views of the Liberian people and therefore should be ignored.

NIGERIA

Shagari Holds Talks With Brazilian President

AB160935 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The second round of talks between Nigeria and Brazil continues today in Lagos. The first round of talks took place yesterday between President Shehu Shagari and his Brazilian counterpart, President Joao Baptista Figueredo, who were at the head of their countries' delegations at the talks. At the opening session President Shagari said that Nigeria and Brazil could cooperate meaningfully in the agriculture and the industrial sector. He stated that under the green revolution program, Nigeria was striving toward achieving self-sufficiency in food production in the very near future. The president noted that being endowed with raw materials and a large domestic market, Nigeria could claim to have a high potential for a rapid industrial development, adding that the country has been able to provide a favorable climate for both domestic and foreign entrepreneurs through a number of industrial incentives.

President Shagari stated that Nigeria would welcome increased Brazilian participation in the expansion of her industrial base especially in the area of agro-allied industries to the benefit of both countries. He emphasized the need for both countries to double their efforts to establish a more meaningful economic relationship between the developed and the developing nations, and a reduction in the North-South gap. President Shehu Shagari also said that Nigeria and Brazil should continue to work together within the framework of the United Nations to avert the threat of war, to effect the decolonization of all oppressed peoples, and to ensure permanent peace in the world.

The Brazilian leader in his remark said that there were prospects for a new stage in relations between his country and Nigeria. He hoped that delegations of both countries would carry out the task of working out ways to give concrete expressions to the aspirations of their governments. President Joao Baptista Figueredo, who arrived in the country yesterday, will today lay a wreath at the Tafawa Balewa Cenotaph and visit the national museum. The Brazilian president will this evening attend a banquet in his honor at the national theater.

Shagari Presents Six Ministerial Nominees

AB161630 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has presented six ministerial nominees to the Senate for consideration. This list includes three nominees who were previously rejected by the Senate Committee on Public Services. These are Chief E.C. Anyaoku, Anambra State; Chief Ralph Uwechue, Bendel State, and Alhaji Ali Baba, Gongola State. The three new nominees areDr Ebiwe Jason Sowho, Bendel State, and Dr Bennett Birabi, RiversState, who are members of the House of Representatives, and Mohamed Alhaji Mohamed from Bauchi State. In a letter to the Senate, President Shehu Shagari expressed his appreciation to the senators for the conscientious manner in which they carried out the last screening exercise. The president, however, appealed to the legislators to reconsider the cases of the three nominees it had earlier rejected, and since the grounds for their nonconfirmation were not ascertained, he urged the Senate to confirm the appointees urgently to enable his administration to take off in full swing.

In the meantime, the Senate has referred the list of the nominees to its Committee on Public Services, Establishments, and Manpower Development for screening. The committee is expected to submit its report to the committee of the whole House on Monday. (Endall) 161200 MAA/PETTY/PO 16/1649z Nov

UN Urged To Reject RSA Constitutional Reforms

AB161930 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Nigeria has urged the United Nations to reject the so-called constitutional reforms in apartheid South Africa. The call was made by Nigeria's representative at the United Nations, Dr Oladapo Fafowura, at a special session summoned by the organization to discuss the reforms. Dr Fafowura said the United Nations should not recognize the government emerging from the new Constitution. He stated that the Constitution was drawn up to confuse and divide the opponents of the Pretoria regime. In the recent constitutional move, the racist government granted more powers to the colored and Asians while the black majority were left out.

Foreign Service Cost Reductions Considered

AB161805 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Lagos, Nov 16 (AFP) — Nigeria is considering cutting down the size and running costs of its foreign diplomatic missions to reflect domestic economic realities, the *NATIONAL CONCORD* newspaper reported today, quoting Second External Affairs Minister Hassan Agwai Mohammed. Mr Mohammed told the independent daily that the exercise would involve considerable reduction of staff in some cases and a possible increase in others depending on the national interest. The paper said that President Shehu Shagari has set up a machinery to determine areas where the cuts would be effected, adding that the Foreign Ministry hoped that the measure would save a considerable amount of money. It is also believed that the move would focus attention on the Shagari administration's Africa-first foreign policy.

Observers recall that the proposed pruning of Nigeria's foreign service comes in the wake of efforts for similar reductions in the size and costs of public establishments at home. There are now provisions for 19 federal ministries and 35 ministers as against 22 and 46 respectively in the past. The ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN), has also recommended cuts of between 7 and 15 per cent in the salaries of public offices as part of the measures to stem Nigeria's current economic recession. President Shagari and Vice-President Alex Ekwueme as well as federal and state legislators are to be affected by the pay cuts.

SENEGAL

Yugoslav Official To Talk With Socialist Leaders

AB161235 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] (Slavko Vaselinov), a member of the Yugoslav collegial leadership and the presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY], arrived in Dakar last night. He was welcomed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Moustapha Niasse. From here, Mr (Vaselinov) is expected to go the Republic of Guinea in order to attend the congress of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG]. But before then, he will hold discussions with the leaders of the Senegalese Socialist Party [PSS]. Mega N'dou asked him about the message he has brought for the ruling parties in Senegal and Guinea, both members of the Nonaligned Movement.

[Begin recording in Serbo-Croatian fading into French translation] In the first place, we have come here to Africa with greetings from the LCY and the entire people of Yugoslavia to the PSS and the PDG. As we are here, we also hope to continue the task of strengthening the cooperation and the bonds of friendship existing between our two countries to the benefit of our two peoples and also to the development of peace in the world. This is very necessary, especially as world peace is now threatened more than ever. Never has the danger of (?war) been felt to be so near. It is therefore our duty — those of us who have suffered and those of us who were forced to struggle for our independence — to do everything possible to preserve world peace and to restore confidence, collaboration, and coexistence. [end recording]

TOGO

Diouf Envoy Brings Message to President Eyadema

AB161820 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] General Eyadema, the founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally, [RPT] received in audience this morning at the Presidential Palace Mr Saloum Kande, the ambassador of Senegal to Togo.

He came to deliver a message from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal to the Togolese head of state. At the end of the audience, Mr Saloum Kande expressed pleasure over the talks he had with Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema to the press.

[Begin recording] [Kande] I come here quite often, and I am happy about the frequency of my visits since it is a reflection of the exceptional and excellent nature of relations between the Republic of Togo and the Republic of Senegal. I delivered a message to Gen Eyadema, the founding chairman of the RPT and president of the republic, from President Abdou Diouf.

[Question by unidentified journalist] The African Continent has a certain number of problems, for example, the problems facing South Africa and Southern Africa. Did you discuss these types of problems with the head of state?

[Kande] As I had the privilege to say here a year ago, it is King Juan Carlos of Spain who saw in President Eyadema sentiments for national and international unity. It is, therefore, these sentiments of national and international unity, which were perceived in him by King Juan Carlos, that seek expression every moment and make him alert to champion the cause of national and international unity.

This is the reason that anytime you meet President Eyadema these questions are discussed. The president of the Togolese Republic is most concerned by the international and African situation — the cases you just raised: Chad, Western Sahara, South Africa, [words indistinct]. He spoke about them with a faith that moved me.

But what is (?impressive) is that the president of the republic is optimistic and confident despite all odds. He thinks that thanks to conviction, the exchange of views, and fruitful dialogue, just and lasting solutions will be found. Nothing can be accomplished overnight, as the English say. [as heard] But the president of the republic is confident that with goodwill, courage, perseverance, understanding, and efforts from all (?countries), a lasting solution will be found. Therefore, in a nutshell, I will answer that the president of the republic raised these issues that are of so much concern to him. [end recording]

Commentary Warns Diplomats on 'Destabilization'

AB161215 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] When he entered the Togolese political scene in January 1967, and when he created the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] in November 1969, the president and founder assigned himself a mission with an objective and a goal. It is unquestionable that the RPT has been able to impose itself and to reassure those who had lost all hope. Through the actions, speeches, and ideas of the party and its president and founder, General Eyadema, one can see our positive achievements which are reflected in the Togolese society by the political, economic, social, and cultural changes. In his actions, the man of 13 January [reference to the 13 January 1963 military coup d'etat] has been able to couple the purging of the political atmosphere with economic redress despite the difficult world economic conditions. He was able to reverse the situation and rally behind him both the skeptics and those who attach a great price to unity and national reconciliation.

The observer who knew about personal quarrels within the former political parties now has an image of a Togo that is reunited against the common enemy, which is underdevelopment. National unity, peace, solidarity, stability, national consciousness, and the construction of a strong nation have restored to us our dignity, self-esteem, and our pride in belonging to a country that is united and reconciled. Some of the things that contributed to a revival of nationalism and patriotism were the attempt of Sarakawa in 1974, and the plot by those who wanted to go back to the old days and who tried through the backing of mercenaries in May 1977 to reverse the political situation. These events further strengthened unity and reconciliation between the Togolese people and encouraged us to do everything possible to safeguard peace and stability, which we have dearly paid for. Togo's success is well known at the international level and is characterized by the person of General Eyadema, who has won numerous international prizes because of his actions in favor of peace in Africa and in the world. If necessary, the great success of his recent visit to the United States has reminded us of the precious value of what we have because of the man of 13 January: peace and stability.

However, all these happy events are taking place at a time when some countries or diplomats with bad intentions are trying to use some of our compatriots to carry out some unspeakable acts aimed at destabilizing the country. And it is here that President Eyadema saw fit to call for order and to warn everyone last Thursday during his important address on the occasion of the reception in honor of the militants of the Union of Togolese Women.

He said: You should never forget that the revolution we launched together is green. It is based on a search for the well-being of all citizens thanks to agricultural development and our policy of self-sufficiency in food. It has won general support because it perfectly corresponds to the deep aspirations of the Togolese people. On the contrary, the red revolution — the one which seeks to impose itself from abroad through violence and bloodshed, the one which sacrifies the faith and dignity of man in the name of a certain ideology, the one which seeks to solve all problems through demagogic speeches and theory — is not in conformity with the ideals of the RPT and can never find a place in the heart of the Togolese. We want to be ourselves and faithful to our authenticity and traditional values and not stereotypes in the image of what other people would like us to be. This is why each of us — wherever he may be and regardless of the social class to which he belongs — must redouble his vigilance in order to remove from our ranks all traitors, false militants, and the jealous and dissatisfied persons who are prepared to sell their soul and their fatherland for a mouthful of bread.

The dignity of an individual has no price, even more so that of a people. The Togolese is proud to belong to the Togolese entity. He guards his independence, security, and stability jealously. That is why he will never tolerate that diplomats and representatives of some countries should take advantage of the weak character of some of our compatriots in order to use them to destabilize the regime. These diplomats should know that Togo, our country, will not hesitate for a single instant to declare persona non grata all those who indulge in these maneuvers, for they will only have a short time to leave our territory. We ask these countries or these diplomats to leave the Togolese alone so they can benefit from the peace and stability. We will also not tolerate that others should try to disrupt our political options, alliances, and friendly relations we have with other countries.

UPPER VOLTA

Lingani Reports on Recent Visit to Ghana

AB162150 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] After the visit of General Quainoo, chief of staff of the Ghana Armed Forces, to our country, Comrade Jean-Baptiste Lingani, chief of the High Command of the Armed Forces and minister of national defense, reciprocated this visit by a trip to Ghana. Comrade Lingani, who returned to Ouagadougou this afternoon, explained to (Issaka Lugurouma) the purpose of this trip:

[Begin recording] [Lingani] As you know, from 4 to 8 November the military maneuvers code-named "Bold Union" took place on the borders of Ghana and Upper Volta. At the end of these "Bold Union" maneuvers, the chief of staff of the Ghana Armed Forces came to visit us here. During this visit, he had the opportunity to inspect our garrisons, he had the opportunity to address the soldiers, and he also had the opportunity to express his sentiments and impressions about the maneuvers.

In the same way, as commander in chief of the High Command of the National Armed Forces and as minister of defense, it was only proper that I reciprocate this visit, and that is why I spent Monday and Tuesday visiting Ghana. I also had the opportunity to express our gratitude and thanks to the Ghanaian military and political authorities on behalf of Comrade Thomas Sankara and on behalf of the revolutionary Armed Forces for the solidarity which has been established between our two Armed Forces. This, furthermore, demonstrated the significance of the "Bold Union" maneuvers. As you know, by these maneuvers we expect to establish a form of solidarity and a form of defense between our two countries [words indistinct].

[(Issaka)] You certainly had the opportunity to visit the garrisons of Ghana. How do their garrisons compare with ours?

[Lingani] Precisely, I had the opportunity to visit some garrisons there and had contacts with authorities there. I must say that these garrisons are well kept. There is order and discipline there whereas [words indistinct]. Of course, I also had the opportunity to address the soldiers, and I think [words indistinct] [end recording]

'Guardians of Imperialist Interests' Denounced

AB161900 Paris AFP in French 1740 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, 16 November (AFP) — Lieutenant Pierre Ouedraogo, national secretary general of the Revolutionary Defense Committees, CDR, visited a few Upper Voltan towns on Monday and Tuesday, near the Ivorian border, especially Niangologo, at the head of a delegation of the National Council of the Revolution which came into power in a coup d'etat on 4 August 1983. In a speech broadcast by Radio-Bobo (360 kilometers to the east of Ouagadougou), Lt Ouedraogo severely criticized, without mentioning names, the guardians of imperialist interests in West Africa. These guardians, who are referred to as the sages, Lt Ouedraogo asserted, (...) ought to understand that the Upper Voltan revolution, which is the result of popular struggles by the masses (...) has been launched irreversibly. It is not a band of mercenaries that will succeed in changing the course of history, he added. We would like to tell those watchdogs that here in Upper Volta, (...) imperialism is going to tremble and be buried.

The CDR secretary general also condemned Lt Jean Kambouele, former commander of the armored division of the Upper Voltan Armed Forces, Frederic Guirma, first Upper Voltan ambassador to the UN who fled from the country during the 4 August coup d'etat to seek refuge in Ivory Coast, as well as the leader of the Upper Voltan Progressive Front, Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo, who is also on the run, and accused them of betraying the revolutionary cause.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Condemns RSA-Western Cooperation

MB170648 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola has said that the struggle against the inhuman apartheid system in southern Africa is not just a matter of the South African people or the Namibian and Angolan peoples, but is today a struggle of humanity as a whole. The Angolan head of state, giving an interview to Danish journalists on 5 November which Radio Nacional de Angola broadcast yesterday at the end of its 1300 newscast, dealt mainly with the prevailing situation in southern Africa as affected by the aggressive policy being carried out by South Africa. Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos took the opportunity to condemn once again the economic and military cooperation between certain Western countries and South Africa, thanks to which the apartheid state wields a certain military power. Despite this, the Angolan head of state stressed, we are stronger from a moral and political-strategic viewpoint. Asked to comment on the aggressive policy of the racist Pretoria regime with regard to the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos stressed that its consequences are highly detrimental to our economy, resulting in losses estimated at more than $10 million. The chairman of the party and president of the republic ended by reiterating our continuing solidarity with the people of South Africa and Namibia despite the continuous acts of aggression being experienced by the country.

MPLA Central Committee Reviews Situation

MB170640 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The 13th ordinary session of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee has been meeting in Luanda since yesterday to analyze the country's situation in the various fields of action. The working sessions are being held at Futungo de Belas under the chairmanship of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

FAPLA Success in Benguela Province Reported

MB161017 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Counterrevolution, which is embodied in the People's Republic of Angola by the UNITA puppet group, continues to see its area of activity even more restricted by the strong offensive being carried out by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA]. In Benguela Province authorized sources have disclosed that the UNITA armed gangs are in total disorganization as a result of heavy blows inflicted by the Angolan people. In fact, during the offensive actions carried out by FAPLA forces, a large number of puppets have been killed and several prisoners captured. In operations carried out 25 October-5 November in Benguela, more than 34 UNITA bandits were killed and an assortment of war equipment captured. The origin of the war materiel clearly indicates the strong links between the puppets and the apartheid regime in Pretoria. These actions, which were carried out in the Cubal and Lobito municipalities, enabled FAPLA to dislodge the criminals from the (Cussa) mountains and the (Catabi), (Mepo), and (Cocondo) areas. In the (Culueio) mountains, FAPLA forces destroyed an enemy base known as (Cinaluandela), capturing its leader. A total of 73 civilians who had been held by UNITA were released. These civilians are in the typical condition of all those who are unfortunate enough to be thrown into UNITA's clutches and are suffering from malnutrition and other misfortunes. During the FAPLA offensive in Benguela, a total of 240 heads of cattle and about 3 granaries of corn from the peasants' crop, which had been stolen by the puppets, were also recovered.

While FAPLA's victorious actions continue, the civilian population voluntarily joins the People's Defense Organization and the vigilance brigades, which are efficient instruments in the fight against domestic infiltration. As part of the popular movement against the crimes committed by UNITA, many counterrevolutionaries have reconsidered their activities and have voluntarily surrendered themselves to Angolan authorities, thus escaping certain death. In Benguela the members of that terrorist organization who are tired of the daily atmosphere of death, blood, violence, and all sorts of crimes against the defenseless population, have decided to flee and surrender themselves to FAPLA. They stated at the time that they had surrendered because, apart from being tired of the hardships in the bush and intimacy with death, they did not know the objective of their struggle against people, who are determined to eradicate them.

It was last year when the bandits surrounded us together with my father when we were working on our farm. They took us by force and [words indistinct]. They gave me an FN weapon and sent me to fight. I do not know my father's whereabouts, but I feel that they have killed him. These are statements by (Quartim Pinto), who surrendered to FAPLA very recently. Asked to comment about the morale of the counterrevolutionaries, he said that many of them are fleeing because they know that this struggle leads them to no end other than death. Others, however, are more determined because they have been excessively deceived by the lying machine of counterrevolutionary propaganda. These, he added, expect death at any point in the bush.

Further FAPLA Gains

MB170801 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Total disorganization is presently being experienced within the UNITA puppet group due to the heavy blows it has been suffering in various parts of the country following an offensive by the glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], which are continuing to display their superiority against that complementary Army of the racist Pretoria regime. According to information gathered by ANGOP from official sources, a counterrevolutionary group routed on 7 November some 20 km from (?Caimbambo) in Benguela Province left large quantities of materiel and military equipment on the ground. On the following day in the (Congo) region another

UNITA counterrevolutionary group was annihilated in a matter of hours during an offensive by FAPLA forces, who captured a large quantity of weapons and ammunition. FAPLA forces have launched further cleanup operations in a village in the Cuito-Cuanavale region, where UNITA forces in yet another criminal action tortured four peasants to death and plundered a corn farm.

Meanwhile, the bravery and courage of FAPLA combatants has recently been hailed by Comrade Kundi Paihama, chairman of the regional military council of the seventh region, during a visit he made to areas affected by UNITA criminal actions. In his visit to the site where the antennas of the national telecommunications center are located in the Quibala region, Comrade Kundi Paihama hailed the courage of a group of combatants who, on more than one occasion, defended the complex with bravery against attacks by the puppets. In public rallies held at various communes in Cuanza Sul and Benguela Provinces, areas which are part of the seventh political and military region, the chairman of the regional military council called on the farming community to increase production. He stated on the occasion that a potentially agricultural area should not experience food shortages. The visit by Comrade Kundi Paihama ended with a further meeting of the regional military council of the seventh region, which he leads, during which questions related to the area's present political and military situation were analyzed.

BOTSWANA

Defense Force Fired on Near Zimbabwe Border

MB161600 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Office of the President has reported yet another incident involving the Botswana Defense Force [BDF] and armed people along the Botswana-Zimbabwe border. In a release today, the Office of the President said the government was concerned about recent series of incidents involving armed men along the Botswana-Zimbabwe border. The release says on 14 November at around 1630 a Botswana Defense Force patrol of seven men traveling in a Landrover near (Botale) village came across a group of six men traveling in two motor vehicles. The men were dressed in civilian clothes and were apparently armed. The release says when the BDF patrol confronted them, the men opened fire from the vehicles. The BDF returned the fire. In the ensuing confusion, the men escaped into the bush, abandoning the two vehicles and equipment which included two AK rifles, one pistol, two walkie-talkies, and some hand grenades. There were no casualties in the BDF. The statement further states that the vehicles in which the 6 men traveled bore registration numbers ACB 577T and GTJ 418T. The vehicles, which carried no licence or insurance discs on their windscreens, are being held at Francistown. The government has appealed to villagers in the troubled part of the country to look out for strangers and report them without delay to the police or the BDF. This is the third border incident this year since foreign soldiers assaulted a headman at (Botale) village and harrassed school teachers. Recently, the BDF was engaged in its first exchange of fire with the Zimbabwe National Army around Maitengwe. There has been no communication between Botswana and Zimbabwe on the issue.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Blames Europe, U.S. for Economic Problems

MB161230 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 16 Nov 83

to Europe in October was basically designed to establish economic cooperation. The Mozambique statesman, who was speaking in an interview with the American magazine *NEWSWEEK*, considered his visit political and diplomatic and not specifically military. Asked by journalist Ronald Henkoff about the results of Operation Production, particularly the transfer of unproductive people from the cities to the country's rural areas, Samora Machel said that we are giving the unemployed an opportunity to work. Until now, a great part of the urban population was unemployed. The journalist then asked why Mozambique, a privileged country with fertile soil and abundant raw materials, finds it difficult to feed itself. President Samora Machel answered as follows: It is the fault of Europe and the United States. You are the ones who are ultimately responsible for our hunger, because you were the colonialists, the ones who sowed illiteracy and ignorance among our people. As a result, we now have no technology, engineers, agronomists, veterinarians, and doctors. We have no scientific knowledge. This is all because of colonialism.

Comments on Soviet Assistance

MB170858 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] President Samora Machel has said that his recent visit to Western Europe does not mean that Mozambique has changed its ideology. In an interview with the magazine *NEWSWEEK*, President Samora pointed out that the United States traded with the Soviet Union without having to abandon its political philosophy. In reply to a question about whether the level of economic and military assistance from the Soviet Union had been unsatisfactory, the president said the Soviet Union and other socialist countries had supported Frelimo right through the liberation struggle with weapons and training. The West provided neither weapons nor diplomatic support. He said if the United States started supporting Mozambique with arms it would be possible to make a comparison with the Soviet Union. Asked whether the antigovernment guerrilla movement in the country was gaining strength, President Samora replied: There are no guerrillas in Mozambique. There are only armed bandits.

FRG Economic Delegation Arrives in Maputo

MB170840 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] A delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany arrived in Maputo this afternoon to discuss cooperation projects between the two countries with Mozambique authorities. (Rainer Berth Haith), the head of the Southern African Division in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation who leads the delegation, told us that he came to Mzoambique to find concrete ways of implementing a number of agreements signed last year.

It is worth noting that Minister of Ports, Railways, and Shipping Alcantara Santos made a visit to the FRG last year, during which he and the local authorities signed various agreements in the fields of ports, railways, posts, telecommunications, and road transport.

[Begin (Haith) recording in German with superimposed Portuguese translation] This cooperation, as you are aware, began only last year. Our discussions, therefore, will only center on the already signed agreements. At present the FRG is assisting Mozambique in chemical products, including medicine, as well as in repairing diesel fuel mobile stations. With a view to implementing the agreements signed last year, we have dispatched teams of technicians to study actual conditions in Mozambique. Given the importance of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, our discussions will also take into account some of its projects. [end recording]

Machel Swears in New Deputy Foreign Minister

MB161413 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday swore in Daniel Mbanze as Mozambique's deputy foreign affairs minister. Mr Mbanze was until now Mozambique's ambassador to Zambia. He was deputy internal affairs minister in the first government of independent Mozambique. Later he served as a provincial governor, a post he held until he was appointed to head Mozambique's diplomatic mission in Lusaka.

NAMIBIA

Multiparty Conference Holds First Session

MB130624 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The multiparty conference at Windhoek in which seven South-West African parties are participating is to be resumed behind closed doors tomorrow. The conference opened yesterday afternoon.

The chairman of the conference and leader of the Damara Council, Mr Justus Garoeb, said that the conference was an attempt by the parties themselves to find a settlement in South-West Africa and had no links with South Africa. The territory's problems were such that no one party could tackle them on its own.

The chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Dirk Mudge, said that the conference did not represent an attempt to form an alliance of the various parties, but was being held because the people of South-West Africa were no longer willing to be dictated to.

SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Minister Comments on UN Condemnation

MB160803 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The United Nations General Assembly has rejected South Africa's proposed constitutional change as what is described as a fraud designed to perpetuate apartheid. The assembly voted 141 to nil with seven abstentions to approve a resolution introduced by Sierra Leone condemning the proposals approved in the South African referendum. The United States, Britain, West Germnay, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg abstained in the vote. Earlier the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, said it was clear that the overwhelming endorsement of the new constitution had deeply alarmed South Africa's enemies at the United Nations. Mr Botha said this was because it proposed the continuation of peaceful and evolutionary development in South Africa to the benefit of all its peoples rather than the confrontation and violant revolution for which the country's enemies were so ceaselessly striving. Mr Botha said that for years South Africa had been accustomed to the excesses of the General Assembly. With this latest effort, however, the General Assembly had attained a new level of absurdity. Mr Botha said it was remarkable that those countries sponsoring the draft resolution, the vast majority of which did not know the meaning of the word democracy and which had no freedom of expression or an independent judiciary, should feel themselves qualified to dictate to South African how the country should run its affairs.

RAND DAILY MAIL Details Botha Resignation

MB161100 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English
16 Nov 83 p 1

[By Chris Freimond, political correspondent]

[Excerpts] The minister of manpower and leader of the House of Assembly, Mr Fanie Botha, resigned from the cabinet yesterday in the face of a growing scandal concerning his personal finances and alleged promises of diamond mining concessions made when he was minister of mines in 1979. The shock move follows a series of newspaper reports alleging that Mr Botha is facing claims totalling R250,000 from creditors and that the Government has been called on to hand over diamond mining concessions on the west coast allegedly promised by Mr Botha to a former friend, but not ever finalised.

Mr Botha, 61, was elected as MP for Soutpansberg in 1958. He held the portfolios of Water Affairs and Forestry before being appointed Minister of Mines and Labour. The portfolio was later split to become the Ministry of Manpower. Mr Botha was regarded as the father of labour reforms in South Africa.

The Progressive Federal Party spokesman on Manpower, Dr Alex Boraine, said last night it was important that in the interests of clean administration as promised by the prime minister, that the reasons for Mr Botha's resignation be made known. Dr Boraine said it was tragic that Mr Botha, who was one of the few ministers who had been involved in "genuine reform measures" should have to resign under such "unfortunate" circumstances.

Mr Botha's resignation immediately sparked speculation in political circles as to who would succeed him. Names mentioned included the Minister of Industries, Commerce and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, and the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Pietie du Plessis. However, there was also speculation that Mr Botha might be replaced by a labour expert from outside Parliament.

It was revealed at the weekend that former Korean War pilot Brigadier Johann "Jan" Blaauw had demanded payment from Mr Botha of R250,000 allegedly owed on promissory notes, and that Brig Blaauw had written to the government demanding the handover of two major diamond concessions he claims Mr Botha had promised him. Brig Blaauw claims that he is entitled to two concessions on the west coast.

Cabinet Reshuffle 'Likely'

MB161657 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The political future of Cooperation and Development Minister Piet Koornhof is uncertain following the appointment of Transport Minster Hendrik Schoeman as acting leader of the House of Assembly. Schoeman has taken the place of Manpower Minister Fanie Botha who has resigned. Political observers say Koornhof, who held the most senior position in the Cabinet after Botha, periodically has been appointed assembly leader.

They say a Cabinet reshuffle is likely and speculate that Koornhof will not survive a change in the Cabinet. They say Koornhof is a likely candidate for the post of ambassador to London when the post falls vacant next year.

LP Leader Says Constitution Step Toward Unity

MB160953 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The leader of the Labor Party [LP], the Reverend Allan Hendrikse, says participation in the new constitution is a step closer to living together, a fact that is supported by the country's Colored community. The Rev Mr Hendrikse said in a television news program that although the new dispensation did not meet all their aspirations, it should, however, be supported by the Coloreds because the whites had shown in the referendum that they were prepared to accept power sharing.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Indian Council, Mr Rajbansi, said in the program that after the referendum more Indians were prepared to give the new dispensation a chance. He said participation in the new constitution could only contribute to a better future.

SWAZILAND

TIMES Reports Further on Parliament Members

MB151023 Mbabane THE TIMES of SWAZILAND in English 15 Nov 83 p 1,16

[By James Dlamini]

[Text] The majority of back-benchers who were elected to parliament in 1978 have been left out by the new Electoral College. Of the 40 elected MPS, 25 were dropped and replaced by 25 new faces while 15 were returned.

However, some of the new MPS had served in previous parliaments under the Westminister constitution, which was repealed in 1973.

These include former minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Mhlangano Matsebula, Chief Mantungwini Ndlangamandla, and Esau Matse.

Another interesting observation is the inclusion among the nominees who ran for the elections of former opposition party MP, Mageja Masilela who was eliminated at the polls.

Mr Masilela was a member of the now defunct NNLC [Swazi Liberation Movement] party.

Cabinet ministers who were elected members of parliament but were not elected this year are: agricultural minister, Mr A.K. Hlophe, justice minister, Dr Polycarp Dlamini, health minister, Dr Samuel Hynd, finance minister, Mr James Simelane, and the deputy minister for education, Mr William Magongo, and the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Lawrence Mncina.

The other ministers were nominated members of either the Senate or House of Assembly.

The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, and the deputy minister of industries, mines and tourism, Mr Dabulumjiva Nhlabatsi, were the only cabinet members who were elected by the college this year.

But this does not necessarily mean that those who were elected by the college are out of government — the Queen Regent is still to name her 10 nominees to the House of Assembly.

After the Queen has named her nominees, there is still the Senate to be chosen to make a total of 70 for both houses. The 50 MPS will meet to elect 10 senators, not among themselves, and the Queen Regent will name another 10. In effect this means that there are still 30 more people to be chosen through the different processes.

Meanwhile, the Electoral College has completed its task and they will now go back to their different tinkhundla [constituencies] However, they have not yet been officially discharged, but they are no longer in seclusion.

The prime minister and the cabinet will be chosen from amongst the 70 members of both houses.

ZAMBIA

Government Deplores Turkish Cypriot Independence

MB162010 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Zambian Government has deeply deplored the unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriot community of Cyprus and has described it as regrettable and unacceptable. At the same time, Zambia has strongly urged the the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, as well as of the efforts of the United Nations secretary general. In a statement released by the minister of foreign affairs, the government said that it finds the unilateral declaration of independence regrettable and utterly unacceptable as a sufficient reason to dismember the country by one community, although the existence of two communities in the island is a fact of life.

Kaunda Orders Defense Discipline, Motivation

MB170814 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] President Kaunda has instructed that the Zambia National Defense Force be turned into the best by being highly motivated and well disciplined and said this must be achieved within the next 5 years. President Kaunda, who is also commander in chief, made the order at the pass-out parade of officer cadets at (Kohima) Barracks in Kabwe today, saying the party has already agreed that without an efficient force, the revolution cannot be defended. He charged the secretary of state for defense and security, Mr Grey Zulu, and all commanders of the defense and security forces with the responsibility of turning the defense forces into the best the nation can achieve. Dr Kaunda said the nation cannot afford not to attain and maintain the highest standard of discipline and performance because all armies today are aiming at attaining a high level of proficiency and preparedness and are becoming sophisticated. He said being a small army, its success cannot depend on numbers but on the skills and personality of each other. Dr Kaunda reminded the officer cadets that Zambia is under constant threat from South Africa, and in the context of this threat, their passing-out does not mark the end of their training, as training in the defense force is a continuous process. He said the people of Zambia do not want an elitist army that is not part of them as it was in the colonial era. They want an army that is loyal, patriotic, efficient, and disciplined and should be one with the people.

ZIMBABWE

UK Official Assures Respect for Foreign Policy

MB161408 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Britain has given assurance that it will not follow the line taken by the United States, which has threatened to cut aid should Zimbabwe persist in taking an independent line on international issues. The permanent secretary of the Overseas [Development] Adminstration, Sir William Ryrue, said yesterday that his government will respect the foreign policy of the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, because Zimbabwe is foreign and a sovereign and independent state. Sir William, who was touring resettlement schemes jointly funded by Britain and Zimbabwe in Mashonaland East, told *THE HERALD* that his government is also keen to see the resettlement program succeed.

Inspects UK-Funded Projects

MB161924 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The British Overseas Development Administration [ODA] yesterday visited three resettlement schemes in the Weza area. The schemes are jointly funded by the Zimbabwe and British Governments. The team was led by the permanent secretary of the ODA, Sir William Ryrie, who was accompanied by the permanent secretary in the Zimbabwean Ministry of Lands, Resettlement, and Rural Development, Comrade (Langford Chichuke). The aim of the tour was to see how the funds provided by the two governments are being utilized. After the tour, Sir William noted that the schemes are facing problems due to the current drought. He said his government has earmarked more than $30 million for resettlement in Zimbabwe, adding that the aid will be reviewed when the present (?expenditure) is used.

Loan Agreement Signed With UK for Import Funds

MB161927 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Zimbabwe and Britain have signed a $4.5 million loan agreement to enable the Zimbabwe private sector to import raw materials and spare parts from Britain. The agreement was signed by the deputy prime minister and the acting minister of finance, economic planning, and development, Comrade Simon Muzende, and the British high commissioner to Zimbabwe, Mr Martin Ewans. Under the agreement, the private sector will pay the full cost of the imported material in Zimbabwean dollars and use this as a surplus to create extra local resources for Zimbabwe to apply to a development loan. The loan, with 3 percent interest, is payable over a period of 25 years with 7 years' grace. The loan is part of Britain's 75 million pounds sterling (?made under) the Zimcord fund.

Visiting PAC Leader Discusses RSA Situation

MB161522 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The chairman of the Pan African Congress [PAC] of South Africa, Comrade John Pokela, has scoffed at Pretoria's recent so-called constitutional referendum, terming it a device to conscript Indians and Coloreds into the racist Army. He told *THE HERALD* that the referendum aimed at giving limited political rights to the country's Indians and Coloreds, and it is also an attempt to persuade the world that South Africa is making some reforms. Comrade Pokela said it is a move to further entrench apartheid and conscript the Indians and Coloreds to help the regime in its fight against liberation movements in and outside South Africa. The PAC leader, who arrived in Harare last week, has held talks with the government on the South African situation. He ruled out any chances of a peaceful change now or in the near future in that country. He called on all the South African peoples to unite as never before against the regime and those who support it.

Senate President Defends One-Party State

MB161900 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The president of the Senate, Comrade Marvin Makombe, says democracy can flourish within the confines of a one-party state. He was speaking at a news conference in Harare yesterday after his return from a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya recently. Comrade Makombe said the electorate could still exercise its democratic right to elect its leaders in a one-party state. He cited the example of Tanzania, Zambia, and Kenya, where elections were held recently in which the electorate returned to parliament members of their choice. Comrade Makombe also said the 6-day conference rejected parliament of the yes [words indistinct] and it does not help the government in its development programs. He said the conference agreed that senior civil servants from the permanent secretary right down to the assistant secretary should be versed in all political issues. Comrade Makombe said the senior civil servant should be a professional man or woman who advises the minister in day-to-day work. He was accompanied by an independent member of parliament, Mr James Thrush. Mr Thrush also said the conference unanimously passed a motion denouncing the Pretoria regime for its acts of destabilization against the frontline states and one calling for the freedom of Namibia. He said no one knows how fast the racist Pretoria regime is carrying out these acts, since it has openly attacked Mozambique and Lesotho. Mr Thrush said information divulged by captured dissidents also prove that apartheid-ruled South Africa is destabilizing its neighbors. He added that at the moment Zimbabwe is being subjected to provocative broadcasts which are being aired from South Africa in English, Shona, and Ndebele, all with one main aim: to destabilize Zimbabwe.

Official Discusses Role of People's Militia Force

MB161911 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The deputy minister of state for paramilitary training, Comrade William Ndangana, says the Zimbabwe People's Militia Force should always be on guard for enemies infiltrating people's homes and setting up camps and ambushes. Congratulating 300 militiamen at the passing-out parade in the Nyameni Paramilitary School near Marondeya yesterday, Comrade Ndangana said after their intensive 4-month course they are no longer regarded as recruits, but as brothers in arms qualified to defend the country. He told the men that they are always on duty — ever ready to do their part in the overall defense of Zimbabwe. Comrade Ndangana said the people's militiamen are often the first phase in the training of the system of destruction of enemy forces. He said regular forces need information, and the people's militia are the prime source of intelligence. Comrade Ndangana stressed that loyalty is a very important quality which must be possessed by every soldier, airman, and policeman.